

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1913.

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LITERATURE

The English Novel. By George Saintsbury. "The Channels of English Literature." (Dent & Sons.)

THERE can be little doubt that the great art of the last century—that for which it will be remembered in the future—was the art of fiction, and that this art reached its highest point here in England in the years between 1845 and 1870. Comparisons with other literatures are vain things, no doubt, but, when all allowance is made for those qualities in which English fiction is deficient as compared with French, any competent observer who knows them both will admit that in the essentials of the art the English novel at its best is unsurpassed. It is somewhat curious that no complete study of this subject had previously appeared, though many valuable contributions towards its history and criticism have been made (as by Prof. Raleigh and others), while a bibliography of its origins has quite recently been published by Mr. Esdaile; but we may consider ourselves fortunate that the task has at length been undertaken by Prof. Saintsbury. A lifetime spent in reading all the fine literature of the world and all the remaining literature of France and England, in writing about it and in teaching it, has given him a grasp of his subject that can hardly be equalled by any critic of to-day. He has never hesitated, when expressing his opinions, to sacrifice the dignity of the chair to a decisive raciness of pronouncement which leaves its mark once for all on the mind, and he has in this volume pretermitted that attempt at obtaining minute accuracy of expression by interpolated qualifications which has exasperated generations of readers—an avoidance which will be appreciated by those who remember the wild orgy of parentheses in a recent unsigned study of Balzac.

It has, then, been a very pleasant duty to read through this book and to commend it to every one who loves our literature, but we are hampered in criticizing it by an almost entire agreement with the views it expresses. It is a source of discussion, not of disquisitions, and any modification we might suggest would only take the form of one of those qualifications the absence of which we have just commended. We are reminded, it is true, every now and then of the scenes in those romances of William Morris which Prof. Saintsbury appreciates so justly, in which during a lull of battle the champions stride forth a spear's-length from the line and flaunt their banner up and down in the face of the foe, by the uncompromising treatment of some of the watchwords of modern criticism. Notable is his rebuke to the students who put the inquiry into origins above everything, neglecting the consideration of the work as work: "It is what the artist does with his materials, not where he gets them, that is the question"; or, again, his wholehearted appreciation of some of our English novelists like Marryat and Lever, whose excellence it has not yet perhaps become the fashion to acknowledge; or his insistence on the value of romance.

This insistence is, indeed, at the root of the author's analysis of the history of the English novel. Romance is inseparable from the novel—the story of incident from the story of character and motive. The fact that the development of character-study in fiction was slow and gradual does not affect the argument; "in every romance there is the germ of a novel, and more: there is at least the suggestion and possibility of romance in every novel that deserves the name." The English fiction of the mediæval period culminates in the great work of Malory, of which Prof. Saintsbury is an enthusiastic admirer—so enthusiastic that he even takes no notice of the striking omission in the romance of the first love-scene between Lancelot and Guinevere, only known to modern readers by the allusion to it in Dante, but written with almost the art of a modern.

The next contributory influence on our fiction—the foreign *novelle*—came to its own in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; it suggested the popular printed story, and moulded deeply the literary fiction which is typified by 'Euphuës,' the prototype of the modern novel as the 'Arcadia' is that of the modern romance. It seems possible, indeed, that the influence of the literary fiction of the sixteenth century on the ultimate development of the novel has been over-estimated. Like the literary drama, but in a different degree, it served as a sort of beacon, showing at once the direction in which one should travel, and the rocks it were best to keep away from. After the Restoration the modern novel began to take shape; Mrs. Afra Behn's 'Oroonoko' has been too highly praised, but it is a story; 'The Pilgrim's Progress' has every one of the four requisites of a novel—plot, character, description, and dia-

logue, "as ideal as Spenser, as real as Defoe." Defoe in his tales is, to all intents and purposes, the first to rely solely on their story-interest, on which Prof. Saintsbury has a little disquisition, noting the ineradicable desire for self-improvement of the English reader. The last of the great forerunners is Swift, and thus in George II.'s reign there had been produced on the one hand a public—on the other, models for almost all the principal features of the modern novel.

The eighteenth century produced one great master of fiction, Fielding, and one little masterpiece, 'Vathek,' with a crowd of lesser works, some great triumphs, and much experiment. Smollett receives from our author his due meed of acknowledgment. Fanny Burney and Mrs. Radcliffe are studied at length, and the importance of many of the half-forgotten novelists of the end of the century, whose works still sell in cheap reprints from obscure presses, is emphasized. With the growth of the historic sense the historic novel became possible, and Scott came to his kingdom, raising the novel from, at best, a harmless diversion into a serious and acknowledged branch of literature. Prof. Saintsbury's defence of the historical novel is another outburst worth reading:

"Any one who does not count Scott and Dumas and Thackeray among the makers of good literature must really excuse others if they simply take no further account of him."

His estimate of the true place of Disraeli, Lytton, Marryat, and Peacock and of their influence is very reasonable—perhaps a little hard on Disraeli; and the few words allotted to writers of less importance generally hit them off with accuracy. His criticism of Dickens, and especially of the critics of Dickens, is that of a man who cares for good writing—a taste which leads him perhaps to over-estimate Thackeray and to undervalue some of the moderns; and he has a good word for Anthony Trollope, who has, however, already been praised by competent judges.

We do not know if this book will afford (in the publishers' language) "those who might wish to devote themselves" to the composition of an English novel "the materials for accomplishing their desire," and rather wish we could have the advantage of the author's candid opinion on the point, but we are sure that rarely indeed has a more illuminating and pleasant textbook of literature been offered to the public.

Let us close this notice with the author's final words:—

"Perhaps it is not easy to see what new country there is for the novel to conquer. But, as with other kinds of literature, there is practically no limit to its power of working its actual domains. In the finest of its already existing examples it hardly yields in accomplishment even to poetry; in that great secondary (if secondary) office of all Art—to redress the apparent injustice, and console for the apparent unkindness, of Nature—to serve as rest and refreshment between those exactions of life which, though neither unjust nor unkind, are burdensome, it has no equal among all the kinds of Art itself."

Maximilian the Dreamer, Holy Roman Emperor, 1459-1519. By Christopher Hare. (Stanley Paul & Co.)

THE hero of Christopher Hare's latest biographical study belongs to the small company of men and women who hold sway over the imagination of posterity, as they commanded the interest of their contemporaries, by the force of sheer personal charm. That a quality confessedly elusive and indefinable should survive the passing of centuries, and distil itself from the records of prolix annalists and clumsy panegyrists to the subduing of modern readers, possibly altogether out of sympathy with the public career of the person possessing it, is among the curiosities of history and human nature; but such survival is a well-established fact, accounting for the disproportionate interest felt in certain figures who have played, perhaps, only a second-rate part in the story of their own country and the world at large. Mary, Queen of Scots, if the most outstanding example of the fascination that outlives death, is not the most striking in this kind. In her case sex and a tragic end combined to fix her image on universal fancy. When the picture to be cherished is that of a man who died the natural death of all men in comfortable circumstances, after a life, long as the sixteenth century counted length, marked by no complete and final disaster, of which the checks and reverses were largely due to his own lack of consistency and common prudence, and often not without their ludicrous aspect—the marvel of its continued attraction deepens.

Yet in the case of Maximilian "the dreamer" that attraction surely exists. He was a failure as ruler, statesman, general; his famous chivalry, when practice of knighthood would have interfered with his personal wishes and convenience, was found sadly wanting; he carried vanity, self-confidence, and pride of race to absurd lengths, and did little or nothing to justify them by actual deeds (save in the creation of the *Landsknechte* he founded no institution, and in his egotism and thirst for personal power he persistently thwarted the patriotic efforts of such men as Berthold of Henneberg); even his interest in literature and art sprang to a great extent from his desire to use both as ministers to his personal glory and that of his house. Why are we disposed to tolerate these things in him? Why did his contemporaries—the men whose great plans he ruined by alternate fits of headlong action and inexplicable delay; the peoples to whom his ill-considered wars and expeditions brought poverty and misery; the wise daughter whose statesmanship was continually jeopardized by his levity and imprudence—find it possible not only to forgive him till seventy times seven, but to keep their admiration warm for the author of all these difficulties and disasters?

The answer, it seems to us, is that Maximilian was, and is, pardoned because the world, in his lifetime and

after his death alike, agreed to accept him as a great artist, of whom ordinary wisdom and consistency of conduct according to rules made for everyday men should not be exacted. Undoubtedly he was a great artist—in life. He set himself deliberately to finish the world up to his dream of it. When he failed, as he did repeatedly, with the unquenchable optimism of the artist he tossed aside the spoilt canvas and began again. His egotism was that of the artist: men and women, wars and policies, were all so much stuff to be used in the building up of his supreme creation. Mr. Bernard Shaw has explained that the artist must of necessity be a ruthless egoist, and Maximilian had no scruple in yielding to the natural leading of his temperament. He had also the robust conscience required, according to the same authority, in an artist who would be true to his vocation. Where he failed was in winning the artistic success which might have justified, even in the eyes of the stern moralist, his light-hearted disregard of consequences. But the stern moralist is in all ages in the minority, and the want of success in the creator has been overlooked in the charm of the man. At his best he is an "ineffectual angel," pursuing will-o'-the-wisp ambitions, and ignoring the great movements of his time; at his worst, a lower boy's hero. But something of the lower boy lingers in most of us; to that something Kaiser Max, with his glorified adventures and his attested hunting exploits, continues irresistible in appeal. What sportsman accustomed to marshal arguments in defence of his own absorbing delights will not sympathize with Maximilian's plea in favour of hunting, that it gave a sovereign opportunity to administer wayside justice to the common people; and his exhortation that advantage should always be taken of this opportunity to receive petitions, unless hounds were actually running?

The life of such a man requires in a biographer, besides the fundamental qualities of sympathy and industry needful to all biographers, a light hand and a sense of humour. In these two gifts Christopher Hare is lacking, and the result is a book which hardly reflects as it ought to do the brilliant, many-sided, and occasionally absurd figure of its subject. Doubtless the author's task was difficult.

The story of Maximilian is so inextricably interwoven with that of Europe in a crowded age that to recount it intelligibly is almost necessarily to recreate the whole historical background against which he moved—an undertaking which would tax the powers of the most accomplished historian. Christopher Hare has done her best in the matter; she has read conscientiously, and been careful to describe from her authorities the continually shifting scene of her hero's exploits; but life—the life that is born of the realization of vanished things—is lacking in her descriptions. Like many writers on her period, she errs in giving her readers too many details of the magnificence accompanying triumphal entries, feasts, and

weddings. Unless such catalogues are lightened by wit and "the human touch," they quickly produce a sense of surfeit. It is well to reproduce, wherever this is possible, the attitude of the contemporary mind towards the events narrated; but to abandon all attempt at a broader view of the situation does not make for quick interest on the reader's part. We can hardly believe that Christopher Hare sees nothing but turbulence and insolence in the claims of the Flemish burghers and the revolts by which they were supported, or that a little reflection would not have shown her why the same burghers naturally resented the breach of the French Peace of 1486. Yet on the face of her book there is nothing to show that she finds anything to be said for their position. She might also have made clearer what her own position is as regards the truth of those remarkable works "Teuerdank" and "Weisskünig." Napoleon at St. Helena fashioning "the legend" should have put her on her guard here.

In spite of its drawbacks—of which a constant gravity is perhaps the most serious—"Maximilian the Dreamer" is pleasant reading. We are grateful for being brought into touch once more with the great figure of Maximilian's daughter, so much better fitted by nature than he to rule an empire in an age of transition. Such correspondence of the two as is here printed fills the most interesting pages of Christopher Hare's book.

La Famille de La Mennais sous l'Ancien Régime et la Révolution. Par Christian Marechal. (Paris, Perrin & Cie.)

La Jeunesse de La Mennais d'après des Documents Nouveaux et Inédits. (Same author and publishers.)

M. CHRISTIAN MARECHAL, who is already known as the author of several remarkable works on the life of the great Breton publicist, has added two more in these studies of the family and youth of Lamennais. His object is first to expose the falsity of what he describes as "the hitherto accredited legend" which makes of Félicité Robert de La Mennais "un révolté dans son milieu," and, secondly, to trace the persistence of his early temperament and philosophical tendencies under cover of the vehement Ultramontanism of the works produced in early manhood.

The standpoint of the writer is exhibited in such sentences as that in which he holds up the career of his subject as an example and a warning—the fate of a privileged victim of modern error; and the moral expressed in the concluding words of the second work:—

"Tant il est vrai que notre formation première laisse en nous des marques à jamais ineffaçables. Tant il est vrai surtout qu'en matière religieuse, politique ou sociale, la liberté ne saurait être considérée que comme un instrument dissolvant et critique, lorsque, devenue la préoccupation dominante du penseur, elle se subordonne la considération de l'ordre, au lieu de lui rester soumise!"

Whether or no we agree with standpoint or conclusion, we must admire the patient industry and tireless analysis with which they are supported and built up, and the author's clear and attractive style.

The name La Mennais—assumed by the Breton apostle's father on his marriage—was derived from a *métairie* in the commune of Trigavou. Félicité's uncle, who had the chief care of his education, continued to bear the former appellation of Des Saudrais. Both father and uncle continued the family tradition by forming and developing a large ship-owning business at St. Malo, and did much coasting trade, as well as some privateering. But their activities were by no means exclusively personal. The father performed the most important public services as *sub-délégué* at St. Malo of the Intendant of Brittany, and refused pecuniary compensation for his outlay in provisioning the port and supplying material for the local linen trade at a critical period. Louis XVI. personally intervened to grant him letters of nobility, which had been in vain applied for on his behalf both by his official superior and the Estates of Brittany. Fortunately for him, in view of his future relations with the revolutionary authorities, they were never registered. The uncle, before devoting himself to his nephew's education, had taken an active part in municipal affairs. Both La Mennais père and Robert des Saudrais had been in sympathy with the Revolution until the period of Jacobin domination, and were in particular strongly anti-monastic in their views and supporters of the civil constitution of the clergy. But they were almost ruined by the so-called "voluntary gifts" they were obliged to make under pressure of the Terror, and with difficulty escaped proscription, their commercial downfall being completed by the Spanish policy and Continental system of Napoleon. Under stress of events they were, in the view of our author, brought back to the Catholic fold, and took with them their ardent and aspiring young relative.

To his maternal grandsire, Pierre Lorin, his father's predecessor as *sub-délégué*, M. Marechal traces Lamennais's originality and vigour of mind, as well as the impatient susceptibilities of his *amour propre*; whilst he makes his mother, whom he lost in early childhood, the source from which he drew his ardent, dreamy imagination and feeling for literature. From her, too, came, he thinks,

"sa piété facilement assombrie, la passion dangereuse de l'analyse intérieure, et cette complaisance à ses maux qu'accompagnera toute sa vie l'incapacité d'aimer au-dessus de l'humanité."

La Chenaie, so intimately associated with the life and career of the Christian romanticist, was a maternal property which happily survived the wreck of the paternal fortune. Some of the author's best pages are those in which he depicts the influences of landscape and locality, of St. Malo and La Chenaie, on the temperament and character of his hero.

Lamennais's heritage from his father seems to have included not only his public spirit and philanthropic devotion, but some measure also of his commercial ambitions. This last proved a legacy of doubtful value, and had some strange manifestations. Thus, in the period when financial necessities pressed most heavily upon him and his family, we find Félicité not only planning speculative journalistic ventures, but also actually taking a third share in the insurance of a vessel engaged in the African slave-trade. M. Marechal cites this regretfully as an instance of the influence of the *milieu malouin*: he had pointed out in the earlier volume that the local conception of liberalism by no means included concurrence in the National Assembly's project of interdicting this lucrative branch of commerce.

The author is inclined to consider the *point de départ* in Félicité's conversion a duel which he fought at the end of 1803, and in which he wounded his adversary, probably Surcouf the famous corsair. This was during the absence of his elder brother Jean, who during his youth had such a strong influence over him, and who was to be his collaborator in his early works. The unpublished 'Réponse aux Objections des Athées,' which M. Marechal quotes from the MS. in the "Archives des Frères de l'Instruction Chrétienne," is in the handwriting of the elder brother, but is judged to bear evident traces of the younger's inspiration. The way in which the arguments of the *philosophes* are turned against themselves is at least adroit.

Similar polemics were followed by a nervous crisis for Félicité, which necessitated a journey to Paris and the consultation of a specialist. This visit brought him under the influence of St. Sulpice, and induced the study of the *grand siècle*, and especially of Bossuet and Malebranche. Pascal had previously been absorbed, notably the 'Pensées.' Yet the conversion was not really complete:—

"Ce converti par l'intelligence ne s'est pas renoncé lui-même. Rousseau ne l'a pas quitté, Rousseau l'accompagne encore: le moi humain est encore là,"

even after Bonald seems to have conquered this early and hereditary mind-influence. It is what M. Marechal terms "Le Mal de La Mennais," and he often insists upon, and returns to, it as an evolutionary key-note.

Long hesitations and bitter agonies intervened between minor orders and the final step of the priesthood. At the age of 33 Félicité is summed up as a failure all round—in the religious life, in the literary career, in business: "Ses sécheresses subsistent et dominant toujours"; his two publications have turned out failures; he is hard put to it on a revenue of four or five hundred francs to contribute to his father's and uncle's subsistence, and to help a young brother. In 1814 he finds it prudent to seek refuge in England from the Napoleonic Government, to whom he has appealed in vain in his 'Réflexions sur l'État de l'Eglise,'

and which he has defied in the 'Tradition de l'Eglise sur l'Institution des Evêques.'

The author seems to establish the probability that the 'Lettres à un Anglais sur le Protestantisme' were addressed, not to Henry Moorman, but to a Mr. Morton who kept a school at Kensington, where Lamennais lived and taught during his exile. The effort at conversion is judged to have been successful. But what was of more importance was that, whilst in England, the exile came under the influence of an Abbé Carron, who induced him at length to take the final plunge into the priesthood. M. Marechal, in treating of 'La Grande Crise,' notes that it has been misunderstood by Renan, and partially misapprehended even by Sainte-Beuve.

The final influence in the 'Jeunesse' is that of the Abbé Teyssere, who tears his pupil from his beloved La Chenaie, and constrains him to give himself up to what was to prove Lamennais's first successful work, his 'Essai sur l'Indifférence en Matière de Religion.'

Memorials of an Ancient House: a History of the Family of Lister or Lyster.
By the Rev. Henry Lyttelton Lyster Denny. (3, Lincoln Street, Sloane Square, S. W.)

"Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged," is the appropriate motto which, followed by many kindred quotations, stands at the head of Mr. Lyster Denny's title-page; and his chronicle of the Lyster or Lister family—representing, we are not surprised to learn, the work of many years—has been obviously a labour of love and, in the old Roman phrase, of piety. That he is also endowed with the faculty of the true genealogist—a character born rather than made—is obvious from the ingenuity and inexhaustible patience which he has displayed in tracing out during a period of six centuries the ramifications of a single family.

To members of that family—for whom the volume is primarily intended—it will make a special appeal, but to all persons interested in the study of genealogy it will certainly be a source of pure joy, and its pages have much to attract the casual reader also. The large collection of portraits is valuable, as the names, amongst others, of Reynolds, Lawrence, Rossetti, Malempré, Nollekens, Janssen, and Mr. Sargent testify, on artistic no less than historic grounds. The various coats of arms will charm even a novice in heraldic lore by what he will probably call their quaintness; while reproductions of book-plates suggest the literary side of the family to which we shall recur.

The narrative portions also are pleasantly written, and contain many arresting items of human interest. A Roscommon landowner is rescued during the rebellion of 1641 by his children's nurse, who hides him, according to report, "in

an oven," meaning, perhaps, one of the hollow mounds locally so called. A maiden of 14 is found weeping over some schoolgirl trouble by an admirer, who forthwith abducts and marries her. A thrice-wedded lady makes her second matrimonial venture at 60, and her third at 76. Two female friends agree to exchange the first children of their respective marriages, a demonstration of affection which, on the authority of a recent novel, we had believed to be peculiar to the East, and to ladies having a husband in common. There is a remarkable first-hand story of a Hindoo princess who, in the Mutiny, escaped from a hot pursuit on horseback (though she had probably never ridden before), and, disguised as a man, was slain fighting against our troops. That element of the grotesque also which is seldom lacking in human concerns finds representation here. A Miss Letitia Lyster, jilted by one John Leigh, and made the heroine of a printed "pasquinade," which, to judge from its title, 'The Wreck of the Letitia on a Lee Shore,' was inspired by no very subtle or polished wit, has the doubtful consolation of seeing her brother wounded in a duel with the faithless suitor. A gentleman finds the reward of his merits in "a young lady endowed with every accomplishment that can render the marriage state truly happy, with a considerable fortune." Another celebrates the less complete endowments of his own life-partner by dropping into poetry after this fashion:—

And though her fortune at that time was small,
She proved so good, as made amends for all.

Frequently we encounter celebrities with whom members of the family were at some time or other in contact. A certain Sir Matthew Lister was said to have been privately married to "Sidney's sister, Pembroke's mother," then 56 years old. A Col. Thomas Lyster was in command of Napoleon's guard at St. Helena, and, though removed for challenging General Bertrand (whom he addressed as "the sycophant of the far-famed Corsican"), stood high in favour with the Imperial prisoner. William Lyster of Athleague was uncle by marriage to the beautiful Gunnings. The father-in-law of yet another Lister was "chiefly responsible"—no light responsibility, truly!—for the education of Laurence Sterne. The clergyman who attended Robert Emmet on the scaffold was a Dr. Lyster of Mountjoy Square. A Mrs. William Lyster was among the victims of Georges Cadoudal's abortive conspiracy against Napoleon. Henry Smythe of Barbavilla—a name still well remembered in Ireland through the awful tragedy with which it is associated—was, on the mother's side, descended from the Lyster family.

The Lysters, especially the Irish branch, seem mostly to have preferred the career of arms, and their record in both services is no mean one. But they have won their share of laurels in other fields, more appropriate, perhaps, to the probable derivation of their name ("reader," from O.F. *listre*). Cardinal William Allen,

a Latin scholar of great eminence and part translator of the Douay Bible, had for his mother "one of the Yorkshire Listers, as noble a family as any." The "father of antiseptic surgery" cannot with certainty be claimed by the family to which this volume is devoted, but Dr. Martin Lister in the seventeenth century was well known for his contributions to the Royal Society, and for various books on scientific subjects. A letter from his niece, "Litell Sairey," afterwards Duchess of Marlborough, deals in delightfully naive fashion with the commission entrusted to her of procuring for him, partly by influence and partly by bribery, the office of Court Physician. The novelist and playwright well known under the pen-name of "George A. Birmingham" is collaterally descended from the Lysters. 'Granby,' that once famous society novel, was written by Thomas Lister of Armitage Park, near Lichfield. Two other Listers, also of Armitage Park, were commended for their poetical achievements by the Swan of Lichfield; for we venture to suggest that the "Miss Steward" of pp. 136 and 138 is a misprint. The date, the locality, and the internal evidence generally all confirm this conjecture. Who but Anna Seward would have "addressed" to one gentleman "a beautiful poem on having read his verses in MS.," or recorded concerning the other that he had "given to the public prints respected proofs of his fine poetic talent"?

From the author's Preface we select in conclusion a sentence which furnishes the apology (in a literary sense) for his interesting book:—

"The records of a family, rightly studied, whether it be what is called old or new, may throw light not only on the history of a district, or a province or a nation, but on some of the deepest problems connected with science and religion."

Theban Ostraca. By Alan H. Gardiner, Sir Herbert Thompson, and J. G. Milne. (Oxford University Press.)

THE potsherds on which the ancient Egyptians used to make notes, practise writing, and, oddly enough, give receipts, have before now yielded valuable results for the students of their language; and the present volume, containing a selection from a large stock of these fragments bought by Mr. Currelly of Toronto and Mr. J. G. Milne, is therefore welcome. It offers a good example of all the different forms of cursive Egyptian writing, and is properly divided into Hieratic, Demotic, Greek, and Coptic texts.

Of these the Hieratic, edited and translated by Dr. Alan Gardiner, are the most generally interesting. The gem of the collection is a spell or exorcism written apparently in Ramesside times. It begins, as usual, with an adjuration to the "enemy," or Keft, here evidently one of the "unquiet dead," who is ordered to flee away, and it informs him or her that "thy head has no power over

the head of N., the son of M.," "no limbs of thine have power over any limbs of his," and so on. It is curious evidence of the age-long belief, still current in the Near East, that the dead have power to injure the living as vampires, and also of the sympathetic theory which thinks that like can only affect like. There is included in this part a limestone slab—said to be one of the largest and best-preserved hieratic ostraca in existence—containing four specimens of letters addressed to great personages. These, which evidently were intended as instruction in manners, are chiefly notable for their elaborate forms of politeness, and contain ten lines of salutation to two of other matter. No one who knows anything of Egypt either past or present will require to be told that they are requests for favours, even when the favour is only the punctual issue of rations or payments in kind.

Among the Demotic texts, for the decipherment and translation of which we are indebted to Sir Herbert Thompson, we find several curious forms of oath in legal or quasi-judicial proceedings which may remind us of our own process of compurgation in early Norman times. Thus Pikos, son of Kheshotes, has to make oath that

"since Totoes, the son of Totoes, thy husband departed from here I have not rooted up any castor-oil plant from thy crop; I have not seen any one else rooting it up; no cow belonging to me has eaten it."

We learn, too, from these texts that a coin called a silver "kite" was worth two drachmas, and that a "naubion," a word which in its Greek form has hitherto resisted derivation, was a cubic measure of earth each of whose sides was a royal double cubit. Curious, too, are the names here given, including that of Sheshonk or the Biblical Shishak, so late as the reign of Augustus, and a surname or epithet of the god Amen which reads, "The gods of Shmun (or the creative Ogdoad) are coming."

The Greek texts, edited by Mr. J. G. Milne, are chiefly concerned with money matters, and show how terribly the bureaucratic system of the Romans must have pressed upon the native Egyptians. Thus we read of taxes on weavers, on cobblers, on all sorts of merchandise sold in market, and of octroi charges, poll-taxes, and taxes for the upkeep of the militia and of the dykes. All these were collected by an army of officials, and were mostly paid in kind, thus giving opportunity for corruption among an ignorant and unlearned peasant population. When we read of the many sitologists who measured the corn, and the supervisors over each specific tax, together with the *corvées* or enforced labour on public works, we may well wonder how the fellah, industrious and patient then as now, managed to carry such a monstrous load upon his back. It is not to be wondered at that he welcomed the Moslem invasion, and thereafter resigned himself to obedience to the Christian bishops and priests of his own flesh and blood, to whom he

looked for protection from his alien governors. The petitions among the Coptic ostraca here translated, again by Sir Herbert Thompson, show that he often found in them, if not safety from the oppression of the State, yet charitable help against its worst effects. The true "burthen of Egypt" is, perhaps, to be looked for among these fragments, which are all well translated by the competent scholars above mentioned.

The volume is published at the expense of the University of Toronto, and the originals have mostly been divided between the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology and the Bodleian. Facsimiles of some of them are here given, and they are all carefully transliterated and indexed, the only slip that we have found being that "the god Prē" should have been written Rā.

The Republics of Central and South America: their Resources, Industries, Sociology, and Future. By C. Reginald Enock. (Dent & Sons.)

MR. ENOCK is already known as an authority upon Mexico and upon parts of South America, and the purpose of his present book is to provide a succinct study of the Latin-American Republics and their social and physical conditions. He thinks that the sociology of the Latin-American communities has been neglected, and in the work before us he attempts to remedy this defect.

The difficulty in the way of authors who write on groups of these fiery republics is that while their books are in the press a revolution in one country or another is almost sure to upset much of what is being printed. It is difficult even for a daily paper to keep itself up to date with the sudden changes which at the moment attract attention to Mexico, but the author of the well-illustrated book now before us does not seem to have attempted to keep pace with events in Mexico. He writes at length on that country, but we see nothing about the last President nor about the present one; and when it is noticed that he devotes a page to statistics giving the population of Mexico in 1900, and ignores the census of 1910, long since available, some readers will probably consider the Mexican chapter to be out of date.

Again, when Mr. Enock deals with other countries he is often much behind time. For Argentina, for instance, he offers tables of figures for 1904, though those for 1911 have for some time been available. For Uruguay he uses figures five years old, though the official ones of 1911 may be found in several English works of reference. So, too, it is throughout his pages.

In one of the chapters there is an admirable picture which will help Britons to realize, in some faint degree, the vast extent and immense resources of these American countries south of the United States. In some general remarks Mr.

Enock lumps his countries together, and his remarks about torture, the administration of justice and the corruption of the law courts, are applied to all alike. The conditions he describes exist not only in the more backward States, but also (according to the author) in the most prominent communities, such as the Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico; and we note his incidental mention of the fact that among the whole of the self-governing republics it is doubtful whether there is a single one wherein an honest and impartial election ever takes place.

Mr. Enock writes charmingly and with much skill about the scenery of South America, and his chapter on the Amazon Valley is pleasing. There is also a good account of the Incas, whose origin and civilization Mr. Enock discussed in an earlier book; and in the present work he has written enough of the Cholos of Peru to make us wish he had told us more of that hardy race.

Looking into the future, he thinks that the peopling of these continents and their economic growth will tend towards the absorption of their native products, and that the growth of home manufactures will lead to a diminishing demand for foreign-made articles; but it might be argued against his view that the growing population will cause the foreign trade to continue to increase at a rapid rate. He sums up by the statement that the Latin Americans are a people in the making, and not an apathetic, corrupt people living upon their past, like certain effete races in the Old World.

If we have pointed out some defects in Mr. Enock's work (defects which he could easily remedy), it must not be supposed that we regard it as of little value. On the contrary, it contains much to interest English readers, and it provides an immense amount of useful information.

GEORGE MEREDITH.

WOVEN of sunlight was his deep romance.

And waves, and woodland green and flashing dew;

A labyrinth there, man's soul, and his the clue;

And laughing elves, who twitch to a 'vitus dance

The cockerel strut of cant and arrogance;

And, fresh as tossing boughs across the blue,

Fair through all flaws, strong women, staunch and true,

Sweet essence wrung from poignant circumstance.

For, seer and singer, long he dwelt apart,

Nourished in secret Nature's close embrace,

Taught in her lap to know the Father's heart,

To glean a light from Fate's averted face,

And chime with crashing chords of godlike art

Triumphant fugues athwart life's tragic bass.

H. NEWMAN HOWARD.

TWO NOTABLE NOVELS.

THE hero in each of these novels has a like failing which is the root cause of his suffering. This failing is the lack of a guiding principle sufficiently strong to counteract the relatively cheap allurements of life. There is also common to each novel a Madonna-like woman, whom the reader will expect to exercise a controlling influence. This expectation is not fulfilled, and, so far as we have been able to discern, for the same reason in each case—a feminine delicacy which deters them from giving counsel which might seem an intrusion on the lives of those they seek to protect.

Mr. Compton Mackenzie's book is a most intimate study of a boy's life—almost from the cradle to the time when he is about to enter Oxford. The full weight of its poignancy will be felt most by any who, after experiencing a like dreary childhood, are still drifting through life—uncheered by increasing knowledge, which concerns only what experience has told them to avoid, not what they should reach forward to. There is nothing approaching a failure in delineation of any of the minor characters—the nurse who drinks secretly, the mother who in the intervals between her visits to the unconfessed father spasmodically lavishes affection, the sister with her musical genius, the school chum, and the woman who represents the protecting influence—but they are all merely accessory to the wonderful study of the boy himself. Only in one instance can we convict the author of exaggeration: in writing "impots" a fatal facility may accomplish the manipulation of three nibs at once; but double that number! We await the sequel, which is to appear early in the new year, with high expectation.

Mr. Hichens's chief concern is the portrayal of a composer who allows himself to be diverted from following the bent of his genius—the setting of sacred words to music—by his wife's ambition for his success in opera. Very powerful is the study of the conflict in the man's soul before he finally prostitutes his genius for the sake of the world's plaudits. Even more powerful, in our opinion, is the delineation of the woman who seeks contentment in garish notoriety, but finds it finally in a wife's love for a husband who proves his manhood in the hour of worldly failure. The author's grasp of situations—for instance, of the first night from the composer's standpoint—is as amazing as his eye for atmosphere and local colour.

Both authors have provided psychological studies of importance, from an educational as well as an artistic point of view.

Sinister Street. By Compton Mackenzie. (Martin Secker.)

The Way of Ambition. By Robert Hichens. (Methuen & Co.)

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

(Insertion in these columns does not preclude longer review.)

Theology.

Ball (Charles R.), *THE HOLY COMMUNION IN SUBSTANCE AND SHADOW*, 2/ net. Skeffington

The first part of the book expounds the meaning of each festival of the Christian year; in the second the author deals with antetypes of the Eucharist to be found in the Old Testament.

Geden (Alfred S.), *STUDIES IN THE RELIGIONS OF THE EAST*, 12/ net. C. H. Kelly

This work, by the Tutor in Hebrew and Biblical Literature at the Wesleyan College, Richmond, will be of value to students of comparative religion, and, being written in a clear and forcible style, will appeal to the general reader interested in the subject. Beginning with a survey of ancient faiths, the author proceeds to a discussion of Brahminism and Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shintoism, Zoroastrianism, and Mohammedanism. The chapters on 'Origins,' including animism, fetishism, ancestor worship, and totemism, are deserving of special attention. Sex totems, it is pointed out, have been met with only in Australia, but Andrew Lang claimed to have recognized them in England (see *Athen.*, April 24, 1909, p. 496). The book is fully annotated, and includes two good Indexes.

Giles (M.), *THE LADDER OF PRAYER*, 2/6 net. Skeffington

The first chapters deal with prayer in general; they are followed by a group of chapters dealing clause by clause with the Lord's Prayer.

Lee (Frank T.), *THE NEW TESTAMENT AND ITS LEADERS*, \$1.35 net. Boston, Sherman & French

In Part I. the preparation for and inauguration of Christianity among the Jews and in the world at large are set forth. In Part II. the gradual development of Christianity and its liberation from Judaism are traced in a series of character-studies of its first leaders, in which the share of each in extending the bounds of the movement is estimated.

Lengthening Shadows (The): SOME COMFORTING THOUGHTS FOR THE EVENING OF LIFE, selected and arranged by Lilian Street, 2/ net. Skeffington

A volume of passages from the Bible and from well-known writers, religious, philosophical, and poetical, arranged under such headings as 'The Desponding Mind,' 'The Influence of Advancing Years,' 'Abiding Joys,' and 'The Year of Death.' The pieces are well chosen.

Macaulay (A. B.) and Brebner (James), *THE VULGATE PSALTER*, 2/6 net. Dent

An edition of the Gallican version of the Psalms, intended for use in religious instruction in schools and for private devotional reading. There are a number of useful notes, a short Vocabulary, and some examples of the way in which phrases from the Psalter came into the daily uses of mediæval life. A table of comparison facilitates reference from the Vulgate to the Authorized Version. The Introduction gives a short account of the various Latin versions of the Psalms. We think that this book would be useful to young readers of Latin as an exercise in reading well-known matter in unfamiliar form.

McEwen (V.), *GLIMPSES OF THE DIVINE PRESENCE*, with a Note by the Right Hon. George W. E. Russell, 2/ net. Skeffington

Short devotional meditations, each of which is introduced and illustrated by a story.

Law.

Exposure (An) of the Orton Confession of the Tichborne Claimant, by W. A. F., 1/ net. Lynwood

The more discreet readers of Mr. Maurice Kenealy's recent book, 'The Tichborne Tragedy,' will read with greater interest this less pretentious work, in which it is sought to prove, not so much that the Claimant was the real Sir Roger, as that the confession he made towards the end of his adventurous life was worthless. To the extent to which the author, who wields a less partisan, but more practised pen than Mr. Kenealy, succeeds in his object, he merely proves that the Claimant was so inveterate a liar that he never could tell the truth at any period of his life. He does, however, give a lucid, if brief account of the Tichborne case, and shows at least an elementary sense of the value of evidence.

Judson (Frederick N.), *THE JUDICIARY AND THE PEOPLE*, \$1.35 net. New Haven, Yale University Press; London, Milford

A course of five lectures delivered before the Law School of Yale University. Mr. Judson sums up the judicial system of the United States as unsatisfactory, especially as regards procedure and evidence. He makes several comparisons with English methods highly pleasing to ourselves, and states his belief that a larger measure of independence of the judges from public criticism would be beneficial in his own country.

Poetry.

Love—and Other Things, by A. B. K. W., 1/6 net. Cambridge, Hefter; London, Simpkin & Marshall

A tastefully arranged volume of verses. The writer possesses a certain degree of both imagination and facility, but his work is not individual enough to be memorable.

Newton-Robinson (Charles), *MOODS AND METRES*, New Lyric Poems, 5/ net. Constable

This volume is the fifth published of the author's poems. It contains lyrics and ballads, meditative poems and elegies, and translations from Horace, Phædrus, and Sappho. Of these 'The Ballad of Richmodis' appeared in *The English Review*, September, 1910, and 'Claustal Faith,' 'The Foxglove,' 'Love in a Mist,' and 'The Pansy' in *The Westminster Gazette*. Grace and taste, and something, too, of the scholar's over-concentration of sense and idiom, are features of these verses, which represent only one side of the author's remarkable versatility. The charm of English country life which he portrays so well was, however, as near and dear to him as anything.

Spiers (K. C.), *THE SOUL OF A DOLL, AND POEMS*, 2/6 net. Chapman & Hall

A little Japanese play, with the theme of the return home of Yasaku, a young man imbued with ideas of the Western world out of harmony with those of his countrymen, gives the book its name. Of the poems, 'The Madness of Lancelot,' written in blank verse after the manner of Tennyson's 'Idylls,' and two of the thirteen lyrics are reprinted from *The Fortnightly Review*.

Voces Clamantes, by H. B. Oxford, Blackwell

Young Oxford appears occupied, at the moment, with the desire to found a school of poetry; but this volume, like others of recent appearance, suggests that the true destiny of these youthful authors is the essay: intellectual, graceful prose on interesting, yet not inconveniently recondite subjects. Occasionally the prose—for it is in essence prose—ceases even to be rhythmical; no skill in the rare art of reading aloud can lend music to the opening lines of 'Silent Voices.' The obviousness of the philosophy cannot surprise in one who does not shrink from an attempt to turn St. Paul's apostrophe to love into verse. But the golden alchemy, the unearthly light, the inevitable melody of genuine poetry are absent, except here and there in versions from the Latin.

Bibliography.

Coventry Public Libraries, REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE CITY COUNCIL, for the Year 1912-13.

The decline in the issue of fiction, noticed in previous years, has continued, while the total number of volumes borrowed has increased. There was increased use also of the children's department, 15,314 more issues being recorded than in the previous year. The reference library has the same satisfactory report to make.

Library of Congress: SELECT LIST OF REFERENCES ON THE MONETARY QUESTION, compiled by Hermann H. B. Meyer and William Adams Slade, 25c. Washington, Govt. Printing Office

No fewer than 1,517 references are contained in this bibliography, which claims to include only works of some importance. The classification adopted separates Banking and Currency, and subdivides by countries; other topics are listed apart. There is a subject-index in addition.

History and Biography.

Hopkins (J. Castell), *THE CANADIAN ANNUAL REVIEW OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, 1912, 16/ net.* A. F. Bird

Contains a detailed account of Canada's Naval Question and Imperial Relations, and of the public affairs of the Dominion and provinces. There are reports on Boards of Trade meetings, municipal associations and statistics, transportation interests and incidents, and financial and industrial affairs.

Canadian books, literature, and journalism of the year are noticed, and a Supplement contains important public addresses of 1912 and historical data regarding Canadian interests and institutions.

McGrady (S. H.), *A DIGEST OF BRITISH HISTORY*, 2/6 Ralph & Holland

This admirable notebook, for the use of both teachers and students, contains a brief commendation by Mr. Oscar Browning. The grouping of subjects is arranged so as to provide the details of any particular development in consecutive order; and the treatment of the last few decades is specially ample, providing, in fact, an excellent introduction to home and Imperial politics. We cannot but regret, however, the absence of all references, either to authorities or to the originators of such expressions as 'We must educate our masters,' which are thickly scattered through the book, with no clues to the circumstances in which they were invented.

O'Brien (R. Barry), JOHN BRIGHT, with a Preface by the Right Hon. Augustine Birrell, "Nelson's Shilling Net Library." For notice see *Athen.*, Dec. 10, 1910, p. 730.

Thomson (John Stuart), CHINA REVOLUTIONIZED, 12/6. Werner Laurie

This book is apparently written for American readers by an American newspaper correspondent in a strange sort of style. For instance, p. 107:—

"That ended one instance of heelerism, bossism, packed primary, professional office holding, 'public office a private graft, piracy, or whatever you like to call it, in modern China! The 'Popular Recall' was a success, despite the cynicism of the standpatters in Canton."

We notice many repetitions and blunders as to fact. P. 128 speaks of Sir Matthew Nathan, the indefatigable Governor of Hongkong, who died from exposure in the 1900 typhoon. Sir Matthew did not become Governor of Hongkong till 1903, and he is now Chairman of the Inland Revenue Board. The statement is repeated on p. 297. The lists of Chinese loans on p. 164, and of treaties on p. 229, are incorrect. On p. 53 we read of "Captain Sowerby, with the newly organized Foreign Frontier Guards." There is no such body of troops, and Mr. Sowerby is a civilian. The statement that America remitted her share of the Boxer indemnity is made twice. It is incorrect. America claimed 5,000,000*l.*, without reference to the cost of her military expedition for the relief of the Legations or the amount of private losses. Subsequently, she offered to remit the excess, provided it was spent on the education of Chinese students in the United States. The author twice asserts that Great Britain returned part of her indemnity, and that this money was used for the establishment of the Shansi University. This is not correct. Great Britain has made no such sacrifice. In one place he says taxation in Japan amounts to one-third of income, in another he puts it at one-fifth. He describes Shintoism as a Japanese adaptation of Confucianism. On p. 81 he says Prince Kung died "in the 60's," whereas he lived till 1898. These are only a few of the mistakes we have noticed.

Thoresby Society: Vol. XXI. LETTERS TO RALPH THORESBY; Vol. XXII. Part I. MISCELLANEA.

Leeds, the Society

The letters to Thoresby have been selected from those between 1680 and 1723 to be found in the Yorkshire Archaeological Society's collection of MSS. For the most part they have reference to the coins and other curiosities which Thoresby was constantly adding to his collection, and to his domestic and financial interests. The volume contains an Index of Names.

The volume of Miscellanea includes a lecture on 'Northumbria after the Departure of Roman Forces,' delivered to the Philosophical and Literary Society, Leeds, by Dr. H. E. Savage; an account of finds of Roman coins in Leeds, with two plates; a brief sketch of John Thoresby, father of the antiquary, with a photograph of his bust; and the poems of "Pendavid Bitterz-wigg," satirizing the Leeds of the eighteenth century. There are reprints of wills of Leeds and district; of the York transcripts of the Whitkirk and Adel Registers; of the Subsidy Roll of the Wapentake of Skyrack, 1610; and of four early charters of Arthington Nunnery.

War (The) in the Peninsula, SOME LETTERS OF LIEUT. ROBERT KNOWLES, arranged and annotated by his Great-Great-Nephew Sir Lees Knowles.

Bolton, Tiltotson & Son

The second edition of a record of the war between 1811 and 1813, interspersed with a running commentary by the annotator. The letters supply an account of the daily life of the writer's regiment, the 7th, or Royal Fusiliers.

Geography and Travel.

Mummery (A. F.), MY CLIMBS IN THE ALPS AND CAUCASUS, "Nelson's Shilling Library."

See *Athen.*, June 29, 1895, p. 831; also Feb. 20, 1909, p. 225.

Sayers (W. C. Berwick), OVER SOME ALPINE PASSES, 1/

Croydon, the Author

A slender pamphlet, written in diary form, which records a week's tramp in June, 1908, through Alpine scenes.

Education.

East London College, CALENDAR, Session 1913-14. The College, Mile End Rd.

The College has now a Council and an Academic Board. In 1911 it was admitted to participation in the grant voted by Parliament in aid of University Colleges in Great Britain.

London School of Economics and Political Science: CALENDAR, 1913-14, 1/ net.

The School

We are glad to note a considerable extension of the activities of the London School of Economics, which now offers over two hundred courses of lectures.

Paton's List of Schools and Tutors, Sixteenth Annual Edition, 1913-14, 2/

Contains accounts and photographs of schools of all kinds and for all purposes, and a list of scholarships obtainable at boys' and girls' public schools. As we have pointed out before, some of the leading private schools do not figure here.

School-Books.

Andrews (A. W.), A TEXT-BOOK OF GEOGRAPHY, 5/

Arnold

This book has been written on thoroughly modern lines. Land forms and climate are extensively dealt with before any regional study is attempted, and both structural and political areas are thoroughly explained. We doubt the wisdom of placing the United Kingdom first in regional study, as conditions, both climatic and industrial, are too complex to admit of a ready adaptation of first principles.

Eckmann-Chatrion, LE BLOCUS, ÉPISEDE DE LA FIN DE L'EMPIRE, Chaps. I.-XIII., edited by R. F. James, 1/6

University Tutorial Press

An edition of the first thirteen chapters of Eckmann-Chatrion's tale of the Napoleonic wars, including an Historical Introduction, and brief notes on idioms and geographical allusions. Each chapter is followed by a questionnaire and a passage for retranslation into French.

Finch (Robert J.), QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES IN GEOGRAPHY, 2/6 net.

Ralph & Holland

These questions are based upon Mr. Ellis W. Heaton's "Scientific Geographies," and are arranged to test both general knowledge and knowledge of particular regions. Statistical Appendixes and selections from questions set at recent examinations are added.

Heaton (Ellis W.), A COMPARATIVE GEOGRAPHY OF THE SIX CONTINENTS, 1/9 net.

Ralph & Holland

An excellent junior book, preparing the way to the author's 'Scientific Geography.' There are numerous illustrations embodying modern methods of teaching.

Keatinge (M. W.) and Frazer (N. L.), AN INTRODUCTION TO WORLD HISTORY, 2/ Black

As detailed an account of European history as is possible within the compass of a small volume. There are numerous maps and illustrations, and an Appendix gives a list of books for further study.

Shakespeare, THE TEMPEST, edited by A. R. Weekes and F. Allen, 1/4

University Tutorial Press

This edition is prefaced by a brief Life of Shakespeare and a useful and concise account of the principal means of determining the chronology of Shakespeare's plays, together with a list of the plays classified in their different periods.

The Introduction contains notes on the date, sources, plot, characters, and outstanding features, both constructive and metrical, of 'The Tempest.' The notes on the text are preceded by an account of each scene and its place in the action of the play, which will be of value to junior students.

Swann (Frederic), A PRIMER OF ENGLISH CITIZENSHIP FOR USE IN SCHOOLS, 1/6

Longmans

A somewhat cursory survey of central and local government, interspersed with homilies on duty. Our institutions are sketched in their broadest outlines, generally with almost uncritical admiration, so that the author has restricted himself from pointing out just those defects in our social structure which call for the voluntary social service he advocates. A chapter might well have been inserted about the Church of England, its constitution, and the opportunities it offers for service.

Fiction.

Barnett (John), THE NEW GUV'NOR, 6/

Wells Gardner

'The New Guv'nor' (which means 'The New Boy') is a school story from which, the publishers believe, adults as well as school-boys should derive pleasure. Whether this will be the case depends upon the reader's estimation of Rugby football, with which the book is largely concerned. The author depicts the English schoolboy in a thoroughly satisfactory manner; his characters are normal and healthy, but the three games which are described at great length may well be considered too generous an allowance of sport.

Bateman (Edith), FANCIES AND FRAGMENTS, 1/6 net.

Heath & Cranton

The eight fragments of which this volume is composed strike us as being vapid rather than fanciful.

Beach (Rex), THE IRON TRAIL, 6/

Hodder & Stoughton

We have often wondered what was the precise nature of the books styled "powerful" by many of our contemporaries: this volume has solved the problem. The hero is a man of intense personality and physical vigour who combats successfully every difficulty, probable and improbable, in his struggle for coal and railway claims in Alaska. The love element which is essential nowadays is supplied by a masculine lady journalist, who eventually discloses a more feminine vein in her character by

marrying the hero. The absolute infallibility of the chief character is overdone, but the writer's style is invigorating.

Benson (E. F.), *THE OSBORNES*, "Nelson's Sevenpenny Edition."

For notice see *Athen.*, Oct. 22, 1910, p. 485.

Birmingham (George A.), *GENERAL JOHN REGAN*, 6/ Hodder & Stoughton

Those who have smiled at the ridiculous situations and enjoyed the witty dialogue of the play will doubtless welcome the production as a novel of this entertaining Irish comedy.

It must be confessed, however, that, away from the stage, the plot loses something of its energy and vitality. Nevertheless, the author has evolved quite a readable story out of somewhat inadequate materials. His characters have marked individuality, and are sketched with humour and insight, while his satire is shrewd but kindly. We miss, however, the quaint speech and musical brogue of the inhabitants of the sleepy little Irish village, also the crisp and breezy language of the American humorist who hoaxes them into erecting, with much pomp and ceremony, a statue to the fictitious general.

Blyth (James), *FOLLY'S GATE*, 1/ net. Long New edition.

Clarke (B. A.), *BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD*, 6/ Ward & Lock

This collection of short stories deals with the very poor, and with those who live the other side of the road—undistinguished members of the middle-class. Some pleasantly original ideas have gone to the making of these sketches, although the author appears too ready to treat his novelties in a spirit of burlesque. There is, for example, in 'The Supreme Listener' a cashier who sets the tone at May Meetings by always appearing on the platform, without being invited, simply from pure public spirit. The treatment of this admirable notion is at first serious, but later it is virtually parodied. Again, 'A Cure for Genius' and 'A Vegetarian Romance' are delightful conceptions helplessly astray in the irreverent atmosphere about them.

Duryea (Nina Larrey), *THE VOICE UNHEARD*, 6/ Simpkin & Marshall

A rambling and not particularly interesting tale of the domestic life and delinquencies of an English couple in a French seaside resort, the good characters being eventually rewarded and the bad ones suitably punished. The most human character is a self-made American millionaire; unfortunately, he does not figure in the story so much as the more improbable characters.

Gibbon (Perceval), *THE SECOND-CLASS PASSENGER, AND OTHER STORIES*, 6/ Methuen

An interesting collection of short stories; two or three are somewhat weird, but all are well and sympathetically written. The subjects which the writer chooses are mostly unusual, a fact which undoubtedly adds to the interest, and he shows considerable skill in achieving effective endings.

Lowndes (Mrs. Belloc), *THE LODGER*, 6/ Methuen

Tells of a series of murders committed by a homicidal maniac, and how they preyed on the minds of the respectable couple with whom he lodged, and who had accidentally discovered his secret. The book, which displays both humour and observation of human nature, is interesting more for its style than for any brilliancy or profundity of plot.

Maude (Elsie), *THRICE WEDDED*, 3/6 Drane

A man's wife is kidnapped and imprisoned in a private asylum by an adventuress who then induces him to marry her; the latter commits suicide, and he again marries his first wife, who has escaped from the asylum and become governess to her own son without being recognized. This is the outline of an unlikely story, which the writer relates in a style which aims at briskness, but only succeeds in being jerky, while the manner in which she leaps from aorist to historic present and back again is nerve-racking.

Maxwell (W. B.), *THE DEVIL'S GARDEN*, 6/ Hutchinson

The *bric* of Mr. Maxwell's early writings, which compelled even hardened critics, fully aware of its unreality, to read 'Vivien' to the end, has departed from his later stories, and 'The Devil's Garden' is merely a plodding, conscientious bit of work. Its psychology is well thought out, its constructive framework clever, but the persons fail to hold attention. They never "come alive," and we cannot believe that they dominated Mr. Maxwell, as his impossible first heroine did. A curiously old-fashioned air—somewhat as of a Mrs. Henry Wood speaking with a certain degree of modern frankness—pervades the volume.

Page (Thomas Nelson), *THE LAND OF THE SPIRIT*, 6/ Werner Laurie

Of these charming short stories some are based on the Golden Legend, some are parables, and some are just pathetic little tales. Several of them strike us as not being finished—they just stop, leaving the reader to work out the conclusion for himself. Though this may be effective from the point of view of style, the reader cannot help finding it somewhat disappointing, for his curiosity is aroused, but not satisfied.

Peterson (Madge), *THE LURE OF THE LITTLE DRUM*, 6/ Melrose

When the scene of a novel is laid in the East, and the plot concerns the attraction of a "native" for a white woman, we generally find a Pelion of catchpenny psychology piled on an Ossa of local colour. Miss Madge Peterson, however, who gained Mr. Melrose's 250-guinea prize with this story, avoids the customary pitfall. She is sufficiently sure of her characters and her surroundings to convince us of their reality without any apology in the way of analysis or description. Esther Williams, struggling for her love (a British officer) against her passion (an Indian prince), is drawn with excellent and apparently unconscious restraint; while so directly does the author narrate her story that even the prince's harem, with all its "possibilities," never lures her into a pause or a deviation. We congratulate Mr. Melrose on his "find."

Patterson (Marjorie), *THE DUST OF THE ROAD*, 6/ Chatto & Windus

This novel, which is nearly all *milieu*, abounds in conventional sketches of the unconventional life of the actor. It relates how a young actress, who was so temperamental that "she cried all through the first *entr'acte* of 'As You Like It' to think that Phœbe should love some one who didn't care for her," finally sacrificed her career on the altar of love; but the story is little more than a pretext for the introduction of a gallimaufry of stage slang, stage superstitions, and stage anecdotes with most of which many persons are already familiar. There appears to be some attempt to reveal the tinsel and pasteboard of theatrical life, but the author's efforts after truth are frustrated by the glamour of having discovered

the "real thing." The point of view is similar to that of an American tourist showing a friend round London.

Phillips (David Graham), *DEGARMO'S WIFE, AND OTHER STORIES*, 6/ Appleton

The New York smart set find no favour with the author of these tales. Men whose chief boast is that they have never done any work, ladies who devote five hours a day to the care of their persons, every duty and responsibility of life evaded, vice shading off by easy gradations into crime—such is the picture set before us. The provincial middle-class fare rather better, but they, too, are presented in anything rather than an attractive light. We note the position here, as in most transatlantic novels, occupied by the female characters, who are far from commanding the universal homage assigned to American women in European fiction. The stories, though plainly exaggerated, are written with ease and liveliness, and their morality is unimpeachable, if a little obvious.

Praga (Mrs. Alfred), *LOVE AND £200 A YEAR*, 2/ net. Werner Laurie

In this story with a moral Mrs. Praga has recorded the preparations of a charming girl about to get married on 200*l.* a year, and her subsequent unalloyed happiness up to the arrival of the second baby, when the book ends. By way of contrast the heroine has a beautiful sister, who marries for money a man named Heinrich Markheim—fat, bald, and fifty—and lives in an atmosphere of tragic discontent. There are no half-tones in the picture. It is, we agree, possible to get married and be normally happy on a small income, but the author has painted the lily too heavily for any but a crude taste. An unsophisticated "general" at 7*l.* 4*s.* a year sounds unconvincing, even at Bedford Park; and the "lists" are amusing. The bride apparently bought her trousseau ready-made in the "hand-embroidered peasant-made style" at 2*s.* each article; but we should like to know more of the Court dressmaker who supplied the wedding dress, with detachable lace yoke, "to transform into smart dinner or dance dress," at 5 guineas. Among the groceries we find "1 dozen packets of milk and fruit puddings" at 1*s.* the dozen, and "1 dozen desiccated soups" at the same price. We are afraid the reading of such items will deter many young men from getting married at all, but we should like to point out to them that this is hardly practical housekeeping.

Ridge (Pett), *THE REMINGTON SENTENCE*, 6/ Methuen

It is difficult to say anything new about Mr. Pett Ridge's work; his warmest admirer could scarcely claim for him any beauty of style, but his severest critic would be unable to deny him a fund of genial humour and a knowledge of human nature, and these have assured his popularity. In the present book a family of four—three boys and a girl—who have been brought up in easy circumstances in the country, find themselves forced by the terms of their father's will to earn their living in London for the space of five years. They take lodgings in Chalk Farm, and, needless to say, Mr. Ridge is quite at home in describing their adventures in town. The youngest brother—who, by the way, relates the story—at the conclusion of a somewhat chequered school career, enters an office in Covent Garden, and from this point matters go with a swing. Among many other good things there is one of the best descriptions of a pantomime rehearsal we have read for some time. This book is distinctly better than 'Devoted Sparkes.'

Sale (The) of Lady Daventry, 6/ Jenkins

The amazing marriage of the daughter of a country vicar with a noble lord—already twice widowed and a septuagenarian, who introduces himself both to her and to the reader with the words "Will you sell yourself to me?"—is shown, with more skill than this preposterous prelude would lead one to expect, to be a union of real affinity and affection. The enslavement of the next-of-kin, and the announcement, received by the old lord with ecstasy, that a child is to be born to Lady Daventry, is the next daring development, culminating at the close of Book I, with the disclosure of the child's real parentage—a confession clothed in lies designed to show her the victim of a drunkard's attack.

Baby twins living at the castle gates, seemingly introduced with little purpose at the moment, become as the story progresses of paramount importance, one of them, after desperate struggles in Fleet Street for a living, finally entering the castle as the wife of the eleventh earl, the suicide of Lady Daventry's ill-begotten son and her own bitter degradation illustrating the text, "In Nature there are no rewards or punishments: there are consequences." The plot is obviously a direct descendant of sensational forerunners, but it has been carefully thought out, and a generous endowment of wit and intelligence brought to the presentation of it.

Saunders (Margaret Baillie), THE PRINCE'S SHADOW, 6/ Hodder & Stoughton

The shadow of an exiled Italian prince of the early eighties is made substantial by the inspiration of the middle-class London girl whom he marries. This inspiration withdrawn, the prince, now a king, rapidly becomes impalpable. Among the numerous minor characters that of a Victorian society leader and *intrigante* is prominent.

Tracy (Louis), ONE WONDERFUL NIGHT, 6/ Ward & Lock

A scheming father, a beautiful heiress in distress, a villainous foreign nobleman, a chivalrous young engineer, Hungarian criminals, and enigmatical detectives are all here involved in a whirlpool of impossible adventure. The writer's style is fluent, and it seems a pity that he does not apply it to a plot of a less cyclonic nature.

Ward (Mrs. Wilfrid), HORACE BLAKE, 6/ Hutchinson

A dramatist of marvellous genius and unspeakably evil life, reconciled on his deathbed to the Roman Catholic Church, is the central figure in this story—a story presented with great ability and charm. The associations suggested are obvious, but Mrs. Ward has been careful to avoid the indictment of having copied either her hero or his environment too closely from life. In making Horace Blake interesting she is successful, but she does not make us like him, and we are unable to attach to his repentance, however sincere, the value which in her eyes it would seem to possess. The "changed-at-birth" incident appears to us, artistically speaking, a mistake, and it is not improved by the irrelevant introduction of anti-Suffrage propaganda. Among the subsidiary characters, Blake's wife and daughter are, in their different ways, finely imagined; his son-in-law is a prig of the wooden order, but both the old curé and the man-nurse are delightful.

Watson (Frederick), SHALLOWS, 6/ Methuen

A good, stirring story written round a tragic episode in Jacobite history. From

the opening scene in a convent garden in France to the final catastrophe in Scotland the book is entertaining; and the author soars smoothly above improbabilities in minor incident and coincidence, carrying the reader along at an altitude which enables him to see misfortune piled upon misfortune without being unduly depressed.

Juvenile.**"A Little Child Shall Lead Them"; OR, MIRO AND THE MERMAID'S SONG, by E. R. L., 2/6 net. A. H. Stockwell**

After relating one of the marvellous and meaningless miracles which abound in this tale, the author adds: "She offered no explanations, and none were asked." This reveals the fault of this so-called fairy story and its difference from the real fairy tale. In neither are explanations offered, but of the latter we do not ask them.

Barton (Hon. Mrs.), HOLIDAY QUESTS, 1/ R.T.S.

The story of Frieda and her birthday guests, who looked for adventures and found them. It is intended for young children.

Reviews and Magazines.**Cornhill Magazine, SEPTEMBER, 1/ Smith & Elder**

One of the most impressive papers in *The Cornhill* is Mr. T. C. Fowle's 'The Tragedy of Karbala,' an account of the performance of the Passion Play in memory of Houssain, which the writer witnessed during the last Moharram. Sir Edward Thackeray's 'Recollections of the Siege of Delhi'—which follow the course of events almost day by day—deserve all the attention which they are certain to attract. Col. Callwell has an animated article on 'Peninsular Battlefields of a Century Ago'; and Dorothea Gerard's 'With the Austrians in Italy' is again a good collection of military incidents and anecdotes well put together. Margaret Lavington, in 'One Hundred Years Ago,' gives us an imaginary letter—dated Dec. 24, 1813—from Samuel Prout to Bowden Johns, an ingenious piece of work, in which the well-known characters of the day are successfully made to appear and disappear in a natural manner. Urbanus Sylvan's description of the Borrow Commemoration at Norwich should give satisfaction to Borrow's admirers. Mr. E. Hilton Young has, perhaps, nothing very striking to tell us about 'Imagination in Childhood,' but his concluding sentences sum up pleasantly the universal disappointment of the grown-up.

Fortnightly Review, SEPTEMBER, 2/6 Chapman & Hall

The Fortnightly is an interesting number. M. Maeterlinck, in this first instalment of 'Life after Death,' devotes himself chiefly to data collected by the Psychological Research Society, setting them out upon a none too subtle background of disparagement. Mr. H. B. Samuel's paper on Émile Verhaeren is, as to its subject-matter, decidedly welcome; as to its manner and purport, altogether too conventional a display of pyrotechnics to be convincing. Mr. Augustus Ralli has a discriminating and sympathetic study of Charlotte Brontë which should serve to correct any misapprehensions occasioned by the lately published letters. Mr. P. P. Howe's article on 'The Plays of Granville Barker' and Mr. W. L. George's 'Drama for the Common Man'—both of them suggestive pieces of work, and of considerable intrinsic interest—are specially instructive read thus side by side. Mr. Swift MacNeill writes on Isaac Butt; and

Mr. J. A. R. Marriott gives us Part I. of a discussion of the 'Evolution of the English Land System,' in which the section on 'The Medieval System' particularly deserves attention. Of the political papers we may mention 'The Balance of Power in Europe: Germany's Decline,' by "Excubitor"; and 'The Balkan Question after the Storm,' by Mr. Harold Steinhart.

Nineteenth Century, SEPTEMBER, 2/6 Spottiswoode

So far as amusement and the stimulation of jaded faculties go, the best article in the current number is Mr. Yoshio Markino's quaint, charming, and also highly instructive 'Memory and Imagination.' Sir Harry Johnston should be secure of the sympathy—where possible, of the active co-operation—of intelligent readers in his endeavours for 'The Protection of Fauna, Flora, and Scenery.' Mr. P. P. Howe's success in that way is more doubtful: he proposes to abolish the circulating library and institute the direct distribution of books by a Publishers' Association. Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall's pages on 'The Hope of Moslem Progress' have the unmistakable ring of first-hand knowledge. The recent International Medical Congress is summed up ably by Prof. Lindsay. The two literary articles are Madame Longard de Longgarde's study of recent German fiction, in which she notes that the "love-story" is tending to give way to more massive interests, political and social; and a rather discursive account of 'The Romance of John Stuart Mill,' by M. le Pasteur Rey of Avignon, which is, however, of some value for its local and individual touches. We may mention 'English and Welsh Tobacco,' by Mr. J. W. Robertson-Scott, and Dr. Macdonald's 'The Cataracts of King George'; and the political articles deserve attention.

Round Table: A QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE POLITICS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, September, 2/6 Macmillan

The September number of this quarterly is as valuable and as impartial as have been earlier ones. The first article is on Downing Street, and its remarks about George Downing are calculated to attract any reader. The man who acquired from Charles II. a valuable building site adjoining St. James's Park, and gave his name to the famous street, had an extraordinary career as clergyman, soldier, politician, and diplomatist, and was the best-disliked man of his century. By Pepys he was called "a perfidious rogue," and by a Frenchman "le plus grand querelleur des diplomates de son temps."

A noteworthy article is that on the Arya Samāj, an anti-Christian but progressive and reforming Hindu sect; while some pages devoted to South Africa and its native question will be a subject of discussion here.

The most interesting thing in this number is, however, the article devoted to the Navy. It contains many valuable figures, and an extract from George Meredith on the subject of Panic which is as much to the point now as when it was written years ago. With most of what is said about the Navy we may agree, but when the author states that every sane person now realizes how perilous our naval position would be by this time have become, had not extra ships been laid down at the time when people were shouting out that they "must have eight," we do not think that he has half-proved his case. He is on safer ground in saying that the man in the street has never failed to respond to agitation on behalf of the fleet, and that, "given a serious division between the

parties on the naval question, there can be no doubt as to which will win." In such an impartial consideration of the Navy it is comforting to note the conclusion of an observant writer, who thinks that "there has never been a time when fuller confidence was felt by the country in its naval personnel."

Other articles also deal largely with the Navy, as, for instance, one on Canada, where the position of parties in the Dominion is clearly stated.

General.

Deaf (The), Handbook containing Information relating to Statistics, and Schools, Missions, Hospitals, Charities, and Other Institutions for the Deaf, compiled by the National Bureau for Promoting the General Welfare of the Deaf, 6d. net. P. S. King

This directory of the national and local agencies for the educational, industrial, and spiritual advance of the deaf should be very useful.

Everyday Economical Cookery Book, by A. T. K., 1/ net. Stanley Paul

At this late stage in the development of the culinary arts only the most super-excellent of new cookery books can hope to gain acceptance. Unfortunately, 'The Everyday Economical Cookery Book' is rather poor. Its recipes are in general commonplace, and the author is too heavy-handed for our taste with her onions and her sugar.

Everyman Encyclopædia (The), edited by Andrew Boyle: Vol. VIII. INT.-MAC, 1/ net. Dent

The eighth volume of this work is, in our estimation, better prepared than its predecessors. There is an admirable article on Local Government.

Leacock (Stephen), ELEMENTS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, 7/6 net.

New York, Houghton-Mifflin; London, Constable

Prof. Leacock has revised and brought up to date his excellent introduction to politics, of which the first edition appeared in 1906. The distinguishing feature of the work is its close association with modern politics, by the application of the fundamental theories stated in the first part of the book.

Portuguese Political Prisoners: A BRITISH NATIONAL PROTEST, compiled by the Hon. Secretary of the British Protest Committee, with Preface by the Earl of Lytton, Adeline Duchess of Bedford, and the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, Fifth and Enlarged Edition, 6d. Upcott Gill

This booklet, which dilates on the injustice and suffering inflicted on the Royalists of Portugal, is doubtless substantially true. As, however, it is based mainly on letters written by actual prisoners, we cannot stifle a suspicion that their resentment has, naturally enough, helped to produce a somewhat highly coloured account.

Provincial Self-Government versus Home Rule, by an Irish Democrat, 1/ net. Pitman

The author maintains that the diverse interests of the four Irish provinces are not sufficiently taken into consideration in the Home Rule Bill, and proposes, as an alternative, to set up Provincial Legislatures on the Canadian model. The case is put forward with considerable vigour, and is illustrated by references to various local problems which deserve adequate consideration.

FOREIGN.

History and Biography.

Cœurjoly (Marius Chaillou du), SOUVENIRS D'UN ATTACHÉ DE CABINET, 3fr. 50. Paris, Perrin

The story of life in the office of the Prefect of a department in the North of France, probably Beauvais. It has every appearance of truthful observation, and will give English readers a good account of the methods of local government under the Republic.

Fiction.

Georget (Alphonse), LA TRANSPLANTÉE, 3fr. 50. Paris, Lemerre

A tale of exotic life in Paris. The *transplantée* of the title is a young American girl (who turns out to be of French extraction), and the principal interest lies in the gradual development of her feminist ideas in the new surroundings.

Grimaux (Georges), LES HARPE ÉOLIENNES, 3fr. 50. Paris, Perrin

The influence of Balzac is manifest throughout this convincing picture of groups of Parisians and provincials. The descriptions of the households, the use of coincidence, the development of the story by gradual growth rather than by particular incidents, all bear witness to the author's source of inspiration. The central theme is the emotional history of a woman during her brief, but disappointing married life: she sets out young and fresh, having just left her convent, but little by little circumstances arise to alter her outlook and her mode of life. The novel is skilfully written, but narrowly avoids being sordid.

Violis (Andrée), CRIQUET, 3fr. 50.

Paris, Calmann-Lévy

Criquet is a young girl of fourteen who is anxious to be a boy, and does not want to grow up as a "jeune fille." This book tells the story of two years of her life: it is well and convincingly written, and we leave the heroine reconciled to her fate, and ready to take on herself the responsibilities of womanhood.

AN EARLY VARIANT OF A SHAKESPEARE SONNET.

East Grinstead.

SHAKESPEARE's second Sonnet, variations of which have been given in *The Athenæum*, also occurs in a MS. at St. John's, Cambridge, which bears the number S. 23. This version is interesting, as it agrees with the printed text more closely than the other MSS., and so perhaps indicates a new source. As the differences between the St. John's MS. and the printed text are few, I give here only those which are significant, the readings of the MS. being placed in parentheses: l. 4, *toter'd* (*tattered*); l. 9, *deser'd* (*deserves*); l. 10, *answere* (*say that*); l. 11, *second my* replaced by *thy*. In addition, *use* in l. 9 seems to have been corrected from *muse*; *praise* in ll. 8-9 from *prais*; *old* in l. 13 from *ould*.

I am indebted to Prof. Moore Smith for help in deciphering the MS., but of course the responsibility for any mistakes in the above must fall on me. The MS. seems to have been written early in the second quarter of the seventeenth century.

H. T. PRICE.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AT BOURNEMOUTH.

I.

THE THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION was held this year at Bournemouth. On Tuesday morning the members, numbering about 350, assembled in the Municipal College, where they received an official welcome from the Mayor. The chair was taken by the President of the coming year (the Earl of Malmesbury), who, after thanking on behalf of the Association the retiring President (Mr. F. J. Leslie), delivered his inaugural address, and said that in Bournemouth the library movement had made a great advance by the opening of the noble building in which they were meeting. That movement was of great usefulness, but it largely depended on a practical, real, and sympathetic understanding of their complex national life. The development of the educational ideal had to be gradual, normal, and spontaneous, adjusting itself to obstacles, and withstanding the frosts of criticism. The scholar was generally an idealist, but when he became an educationist he was often a faddist. The President did not believe that lack of education was anything but a grievous hindrance to a man in the race of life, yet they could not indiscriminately administer the same mental pabulum to all alike. The work of the Library Association must ultimately come under the heading of things that appertain to education. They were the guardians of the public's literature, and what was literature if not education? The Heron Court Collection was smaller than many another great private library, yet in his home the speaker had a daily reminder of an endless story told while generations come and go.

One of the first duties of the Association was to further the establishment of reference and lending libraries for the use of the public. That was the greatest educational factor in their scheme, and would become more and more a valuable asset in their national life. Two powerful and unhealthy agencies were at work—the forces of superficiality and cosmopolitanism. One product of this alliance was social discontent and industrial unrest. The weakness of our system was largely due to the presence of political considerations in the drawing up of our educational codes. He was not concerned with defining the line of demarcation between education and literature; their ideal should be to create such a system as would best teach their children how to think. The mistake made by well-meaning fanatics was to persuade themselves that every child was destined to become a literary genius if he was only kept at school long enough, and enough public money was poured upon his defenceless head.

The President, having been cordially thanked for his address, stated that the first two papers on the programme, which had to do with matters of local interest, would be taken as read: these were 'The Public Library Movement in Bournemouth,' by Mr. Charles Riddle (Bournemouth), and 'Some Literary Associations of Bournemouth and the Neighbourhood,' by Mr. C. H. Mate (Chairman Bournemouth Education Committee).

Mr. H. R. Tedder (Secretary and Librarian, the Athenæum) submitted a paper on 'E. W. B. Nicholson, Bodley's Librarian 1882-1912,' with a twofold object, one being to record the services of Nicholson in relation to the first organization of the Library Association, and the other to present

a picture of a great librarian and a man of fine and striking personality. When in 1882 the Curators of the Bodleian elected Nicholson as a successor to H. O. Coxe, they chose a young man, full of energy, a good scholar, a tried organizer, of excellent technical qualifications, a man of scrupulous honour and unblemished reputation, of lofty aims—one determined to devote his life to making Bodley an honour to Oxford and a pattern to the library world. Within five years he introduced many improvements. Among the important works due to his initiative during later years were the provision of a new reading-room, the construction of the great underground storage room opened nine months after his death, and the revision of the catalogue of printed books. Nicholson was a man of strong character and made many enemies, but even these recognized his noble aims, his conscientiousness, his boundless energy and love of work. He was a great librarian, and had many of the qualities of a great man.

'Co-operative Specializing by Municipal Libraries' was discussed by Mr. A. H. Garstang, and the subject of 'Planning a Catalogue of Local Literature' was dealt with by Mr. Basil Anderton (Newcastle-upon-Tyne). Some of the speakers on the latter question were of opinion that local collections ought not to attempt to include every book written by local men, simply because they were born or lived in the locality.

Mr. J. McKillop, in a paper on 'The Extension of Public Libraries to Rural Districts,' set forth the conditions of a useful library service in those areas. The method of the autonomous local authority could not overcome the obvious limitations. What should be the extent of administration? Was it to be the county or a group of counties? Was it to be the whole kingdom? The ultimate solution would probably lie in a completely reconstructed library system for the whole country. Mr. E. W. Hulme (Patent Office) considered that voluntary effort had almost entirely failed in rural districts, but a penny rate in a rural district was quite inadequate to provide an efficient library service. Either the municipalities or the State must assist. Mr. L. Stanley Jast (Croydon, Hon. Secretary) said the Bill promoted by the Library Association, which had been on the stocks for many years, would create a county library authority, and would provide the practical machinery required by Mr. McKillop's suggestions.

In the evening there was a reception by the Mayor at the Municipal College.

On Wednesday Miss Snouck Hurgronje (Dordrecht) gave a lantern lecture on 'The Libraries of Holland,' to which Mr. H. R. Tedder added an account of the Dutch archives. A paper suggesting 'English and American Co-operation for an Index to General Periodicals' was submitted by Mr. T. W. Lyster (National Library of Ireland, Dublin), and a resolution was agreed to referring the question to the Council with a view of appointing a committee to report upon the subject. Mr. Charles Riddle (Bournemouth) described 'The John B. M. Camm Music Reference Library,' which has been presented to the town, and compared the various schemes of classifying orchestral music.

In the afternoon the Earl and Countess of Malmesbury entertained the members at a garden party at Heron Court. Christchurch Priory was also visited.

The proceedings were continued on Thursday and Friday.

A "SNARL OF VIOLETS."

August 28, 1913.

WHEN Sir George Birdwood explains that he is "no etymologist," he reminds one of a certain mathematical professor who used to interject ruefully—with a glance at the few numerals entangled in a snare of higher algebraic complexities on the blackboard—"You can put these right—I'm no arithmetician," and so would pass on breathlessly to ever-giddier altitudes of calculation. Clearly, if Sir George is no etymologist, it is because he has left that behind him in becoming a philologist. The flood of his erudition is so sudden and sufficient that one's first feeling was that there remained nothing to be said. But even against an overpoweringly good thing you can always (after you have picked yourself up) submit a plea that less of it would have done. It is somewhat in this spirit—cowed, yet courageous—that I venture to comment on Sir G. Birdwood's learned commentary.

And first as to the meaning of the word *snarl*. The fact that he did not know that homonym properly until the 9th inst., and that I (as I must confess) did not know it at all until about eight years ago, simply proves once more—that we knew quite well already—that the habit of reading, and especially of reading newspapers, is rapidly robbing us of all our real, inherited, vital grip and knowledge of the English language. With good household words going into abeyance every hour of every day (simply because they have not recently appeared in the newspapers), one is desolated at the thought of the pass we shall all be brought to presently. Sir George, it is true, may regard the prospect with comparative equanimity, for at the worst he will be able to eke out his impoverished means of expression by odds and ends of aid from most other languages.

Meantime, while the means of expression in the mother-tongue are still left to us, let me say that his vehement objection to "a snarl of violets" seems due to a snarl of ideas not easily disentangled. The attempt will be simplified if I explain how I first met the word *snarl* in this sense. It was in a letter from an eminent American metaphysician to the late Lady Welby, in which the writer spoke at length of the complications, typographical and moral, that had resulted from his giving the foreman-printer an exasperating task in the setting-up of a most intricately diagrammatized essay. The writer's meaning was ruined, and the printer's temper was spoilt. "However, the snarl is at last cleared away," concluded the philosopher. I stuck at the word (the story having been read to me as a mutual friend) just as Sir G. Birdwood might have done; not for its derivation, however, but for its meaning, for it did not really seem intended as a reflection on the printer's manners. Lady Welby was surprised that I did not know the word, which she (a great artist in all needle-craft, as the Royal School of Needlework knows) had been familiar with since childhood. She explained it as meaning generally any tangled condition of a skein, but particularly and primarily the sort of vicious little knot and loop that will sometimes form itself in the knitting material. Let Sir G. Birdwood note this latter point, for it is important. Lady Welby's testimony, then, may be taken as answering for the usage in Eastern and Midland England, as Sir George's own correspondent answers for the Middle South. And in fact one finds, on looking it up (which Sir George may not have thought of doing), that the word *snarl*, in the sense of a tangle, knot, complication, is given its

separate entry in such accessible compendiums of current speech as Annandale and 'The Concise Oxford Dictionary.'

Now as to the derivation. There is a saying in the North that the long-nosed man takes everything to himself; and it would seem that the Indo-Aryan root *nas* or *nos* (Sanskrit *nasas*, &c.) takes to itself, when championed by Sir G. Birdwood, a considerable section of the English language. I know nothing of these things myself, beyond what I am told by Sir George and elementary books of reference like "Skeat." But turning to the latter for support against what I feel to be an unjust claim, I find that *snarl* in the sense of growl, &c., has an authenticated pedigree which nowhere blends with that of its morally inoffensive and phonetically beautiful (because rich and languorous) homonym, the *snarl* which means a cluster or tangle. The latter, it is true, derives from *snare*: as a frequentative verb, say the dictionaries, though I would maintain, if I were an etymologist, that it began as a diminutive noun. Be that as it may, let us see what harm there is in being a derivative of *snare*. I copy an entry, *totaliter et verbatim*, from the adjacent lesser "Skeat":—

"SNARE, a noose. (E.). A.S. *snære*, cord, string, noose. † Du. *snaar*, a string; Icel. *snara*; Dan. *snare*; Swed. *snara*; O.H.G. *snarahha*, a noose. † The O.H.G. *snarahha* shows an orig. final guttural; the sb. is from a strong verb, seen in O.H.G. *snēhan*, to twist tightly, from a base *SNĒH* = Idg. *√SNĒK*, whence Gk. *σπῆν*, to twist; see Narcissus. Cf. *√SNĒK*, to twist, wind; see Nerve. † All from *√SNĒ*, to wind, spin; whence L. *nēre*, to spin, G. *schnur*, a string."

In all this pedigree and relationship, clearly, there is nothing of which the most self-respecting word needs be ashamed: nothing that suggests "offensiveness," laqueous or other. We find running through it, as the popular ditty said, "just a little bit of string," and that is all.

I should criticize also Sir George's assumption of an intrinsic offensiveness in the word *snare*, from which *snarl* derives. For here he is confusing two entirely distinct periods or stages in the history of a word. He is carrying over, from the world of moral discourse, all the evil associations which have been given to the word *snare* by centuries of metaphorical and metonymous usage, in which the reference is always to human life. But first and last this impertinent infection with morality, these illusory evil associations, have never existed for the man whose business is with the thing itself, and not with the word and what can be made of it in the changing moulds of thought. There is nothing offensive, nothing malign for the hunter or trapper of any land or time in the simple mechanism by which he does his useful work and provides food for his wife and children. It is to him simply what his theodolite and chain are to the surveyor, and as honourable as his sword to the soldier.

YOUR REVIEWER.

CORONATION STUDIES.

15, Brunswick Terrace, Brighton.

It will probably be sufficient to state, in reply to Mr. Betts, that he has admitted to me in a letter that he had not looked to see what Dugdale said before rushing into print with his statement that Dugdale was right and I was wrong. Had he done so, he would have discovered Dugdale's "slip," as he calls it.

With regard to his second point, I have nothing to do with his personal "impression." My pedigree remains unshaken.

J. H. ROUND.

Literary Gossip.

THE illustrated edition of Green's 'Short History' is a delightful book, and we are glad to see that Messrs. Macmillan are producing this autumn Macaulay's 'History' in a uniform style in six volumes, edited by Prof. Charles H. Firth. With 900 illustrations it should prove a great attraction, and the learned Professor may be trusted to make the necessary rectifications in the animated narrative.

Another book promised by Messrs. Macmillan which all historians will expect with eagerness is the fourth volume of 'Lollardy and the Reformation in England,' by our old contributor James Gairdner. He left it unfinished at his death, but it has been completed by his friend Dr. William Hunt, who deals in a Preface with Gairdner's position as an historian.

THE historical and biographical works which Messrs. Longmans announce include 'Indian Historical Studies,' by Prof. Rawlinson; a Life of Chatham, by Mr. Basil Williams; Vol. I. of Prof. Pollard's 'The Reign of Henry VII. from Contemporary Sources'; and 'Organized Democracy: an Introduction to the Study of American Politics,' by Dr. F. A. Cleveland.

THE important address just delivered at Montreal to the American Bar Association by the Lord Chancellor will be published by Mr. Murray as soon as possible.

MESSRS. JAMES NISBET & Co. will publish about the middle of October 'Phiz and Dickens,' by Mr. Edgar Browne, the son of Hablot K. Browne. Besides the ordinary issue, there will be an édition de luxe, limited to 175 copies. The book will contain over forty coloured and black-and-white illustrations, many hitherto unpublished.

A NEW Strindberg book, translated by Mr. Claud Field, and entitled 'Historical Miniatures,' is announced by Messrs. Allen & Co. for next Wednesday. It was written in 1905, and essays to show that a divine design may be traced in the history of the world at large, from the Egyptian Bondage to the French Revolution.

MR. JAMES BAKER, the well-known bookseller of Clifton, who is also traveller, journalist, and author of many romances, has a new book nearly ready with Messrs. Chapman & Hall, entitled 'Reminiscent Gossip of Men and Matters.'

The same firm will begin their autumn season next Tuesday with three works of fiction. They announce a new skit on the public school, 'The Chaps of Harton,' by Mr. Desmond Coke, the author of 'Sandford of Merton'; 'The Road to Victory,' a romance of Frederick the Great, by Miss Rose Schuster; and a novel dealing with the White Slave question, entitled 'The Shadow of the Dragon,' by a new author, Miss Cæcilia Moore.

ONE of the most striking and original of Heine's longer poems, 'Atta Troll,' is about to be given to the English public in a new translation by Mr. Herman Scheffauer, published by Messrs. Sidgwick & Jackson. Dr. Oscar Levy, the well-known editor of Nietzsche in English, has written an Introduction to the work, which will be illustrated by Mr. Willy Pogany.

MESSRS. SMITH & ELDER's forthcoming fiction includes 'Thorley Weir,' by Mr. E. F. Benson, and 'Watersprings,' by his brother Mr. A. C. Benson, the author of a long series of essays.

MR. A. C. FIFIELD will publish in October an account of a tour made in 1912 by Mr. Walter W. Moodie, under the title of 'The Tour of a Socialist round the World.'

LADY MARGARET SACKVILLE is publishing with Mr. Elkin Mathews a new volume entitled 'Songs of Aphrodite, and Other Poems.'

MESSRS. MACMILLAN promise a complete 'Tennyson' in one volume, with a special Memoir by his son and the notes which appeared in the Eversley Edition. This authoritative edition will be very welcome, the more so because a crowd of commentators have gathered round the poet and guessed at meanings and references, not always with happy results. It is the fashion at present to depreciate Tennyson and make much of his shortcomings; but his work will last, and find its due place after the period of reaction which has naturally followed excessive praise.

MR. C. E. GOULDSBURY, whose 'Life in the Indian Police' achieved a success last autumn, has a new volume appearing with Messrs. Chapman & Hall called 'Tigerland: Reminiscences of Forty Years' Sport and Adventure in Bengal.' The new work, besides its descriptions of the exciting life of the jungle, has much to say of some of the great events of the period, including the Mutiny.

MR. J. BEST, of the Educational and Scientific Department of Pathé Frères Cinema, writes:—

"In your issue of August 9th appears a letter headed 'The Author and the Moving Picture,' signed by Mr. Gerald M. Neighbour. The writer among other inaccuracies states that no royalties were paid by the producers in the case of the filming of 'Les Misérables.' I should be glad if you will allow me to contradict this statement, as the executors of Victor Hugo received a very substantial royalty."

THE first number of *War and Peace*, which is described as "a Norman Angell monthly," will appear on October 1st. Its aim is to meet a definite demand for a fuller and saner discussion of vital international questions. Published under the ægis of the Garton Foundation, *War and Peace* will take its stand upon the philosophy expounded by Norman Angell, but it is hoped to secure expression of adverse views in order to stimulate discussion and research.

NEXT WEEK'S BOOKS.

- SEPT.
- Theology.*
8 Christian Progress, with Other Papers, by the Rev. George Congreve, Popular Edition, 6d. Longmans
- Poetry.*
11 Poems, by D. H. S. Nicholson, 2/6 net. Methuen
- Philosophy.*
9 Encyclopædia of the Philosophical Sciences: Vol. I. Logic, 7/6 net. Macmillan
- History and Biography.*
8 Lecky's History of England in the Eighteenth Century, Popular Edition, Vols. I. and II., 2/6 net each. Longmans
9 The Romance of an Elderly Poet, by W. Jerrold and A. M. Broadley, 10/6 net. Stanley Paul
- 9 The Pope at Home, by Douglas Sladen, 1/ Hurst & Blackett
10 Historical Miniatures, by August Strindberg, 5/ net. Allen
11 William of Germany, by Dr. Stanley Shaw, 7/6 net. Methuen
- Geography and Travel.*
9 With the Russian Pilgrims to Jerusalem, by Stephen Graham, 7/6 net. Macmillan
- Sports and Pastimes.*
11 How to Play Golf, by Harry Vardon, Sixth Edition, illustrated, 2/6 net. Methuen
- Folk-Lore.*
12 Psyche's Task, a Discourse concerning the Influence of Superstition on the Growth of Institutions, by Dr. J. G. Frazer, Revised and Enlarged Edition, 5/ net. Macmillan
- Fiction.*
8 Justice—Suspended, by Richard Marsh, 6/ Chatto & Windus
8 A Fortune at Stake, by Nat Gould, 6/ Long
9 The Road to Victory, by Rose Schuster, 6/ Chapman & Hall
9 The Shadow of the Dragon, by Cæcilia Moore, 6/ Chapman & Hall
9 The Chaps of Harton, by Desmond Coke, 2/6 net. Chapman & Hall
9 Ashes of Vengeance, by H. B. Somerville, 6/ Hutchinson
9 Quadrille Court, by Cecil Adair, 6/ Stanley Paul
- 11 The Home of the Seven Devils, by H. W. C. Newte, 6/ Chatto & Windus
11 The Governor of England, by Marjorie Bowen, 6/ Methuen
11 The Two Kisses, by Oliver Onions, 6/ Methuen
11 The White Thread, by Robert Halfax, 6/ Methuen
11 Tide Marks, by Margaret Westrup, 6/ Methuen
11 What is Love? by David Lisle, 6/ Methuen
11 The Golden Silence, by C. N. and A. M. Williamson, New Edition, 2/ net. Methuen
11 The Garden without Walls, by Coningsby Dawson, 6/ Heinemann
11 Thorley Weir, by E. F. Benson, 6/ Smith & Elder
12 The Passionate Friends, by H. G. Wells, 6/ Macmillan
- General.*
11 The People's Books: Biology, by Prof. W. D. Henderson; Sir William Huggins and Spectroscopic Astronomy, by E. W. Maunder; Kant's Philosophy, by A. D. Lindsay; England in the Making (before 1066), by Prof. F. J. C. Hearnshaw; The Monarchy and the People (1485-1689), by W. T. Waugh; The Experimental Psychology of Beauty, by C. W. Valentine; Goethe, by Prof. C. H. Herford; Spiritualism, by J. Arthur Hill; Kindergarten Teaching at Home, by Two Members of the National Froebel Union; The Stock Exchange, by J. F. Wheeler; Coleridge, by S. L. Benson; and The Crusades, by M. M. C. Calthrop, 6d. net each. Jack
- Science.*
8 Gray's Anatomy, Descriptive and Applied, Eighteenth Edition, revised by Dr. R. Bowden, illustrated, 32/ net. Longmans
9 Researches in Magneto Optics, by Prof. P. Zeeman, "Science Monographs," 6/ net. Macmillan
11 Minds in Distress, a Psychological Study of the Masculine and Feminine Minds in Health and in Disorder, by Dr. A. E. Bridger, 2/6 net. Methuen

SCIENCE

A Handbook for Birmingham and the Neighbourhood. Prepared for the Meeting of the British Association. Edited by George A. Auden, M.D. (Birmingham, Cornish Brothers.)

In the seventy-four years since the first visit of the British Association to Birmingham the town has grown from comparative obscurity to considerable prominence among the cities of the Empire. All this is well told in the new Handbook of Birmingham. The pre-history of the district down to Romano-British times and Saxon occupation, and so forward from Domesday to the Stuart Restoration, is dealt with by several competent writers. Sir Oliver Lodge tells the story of the University of which he is Principal, and Sir George Kenrick treats of the reorganization of local education in no local spirit. Prof. Ashley considers all that Birmingham has stood for in the economic and industrial life of the nation, and some of the problems it has yet to face—this general article being followed by a series of expert papers on the city's distinctive trades. All the details of municipal government are described by specialists. The Social Work is dealt with by Prof. Muirhead, and Mr. Nettlefold's town-planning activities are described by Mr. Neville Chamberlain.

No fewer than fourteen writers deal with the flora and fauna of the district, one of the ablest of these papers being by Mr. Robert W. Chase the ornithologist, who notes that Birmingham is luckier than many cities in having at hand the preserved expanses of Sutton Park, where rare birds find a retreat in their natural habitat of woodland, moor, and heath. Mr. P. E. Martineau tells of the spread of Midland Re-Afforesting: over 150,000 trees in plantation, mainly on pit-mounds, and some 4,000 in nursery.

The old houses of the city, local castles and historic mansions, and the mediæval work in local churches are all described ably, and, in the case of the church work, charmingly. Of other papers, one of the most striking is that of Mr. Walter Barrow on the City's Markets and Fairs, with a highly interesting account of the devolution of the Manor of Birmingham. There are a number of useful plans, maps, and diagrams, the large topographical and geological maps folding conveniently into a pocket.

Messrs. Cornish Brothers, one of the oldest firms of booksellers in the Midlands, have produced for the Association a complete and admirable handbook. That learned body comes and goes, perhaps, without making any great impression on scientific thought, the opportunities for intercourse being the chief advantage of the yearly meeting. The President's address is expected to startle the man in the train for a day or two, and is then forgotten. In this case, however, the book made for the Association is of a quality that deserves a wider and more permanent public.

Organic Chemistry for Advanced Students. By Julius B. Cohen. Vol. II. (Arnold.)

Six years ago Prof. Cohen published what he modestly called a series of essays on organic chemistry, which were intended for use by advanced students of the subject. He has now followed up this first volume by a second on the same lines, in which the later developments are set out.

Any one who has recently looked inside a scientific library, and seen the large number of ponderous journals recording the investigations of modern chemists, will be satisfied that the subject is developing, but it may be doubted whether many, even among professed scientific investigators, will be prepared for the changes and developments described here. For some twenty years past organic chemistry has been the happy hunting-ground of the would-be researcher; highly efficient apparatus and methods were evolved, and the student only had to take up his tools and could hardly fail to discover something new. Chemical journals grew to an unmanageable extent, and even the bare index provided by Beilstein assumed large dimensions. Much of the work simply consisted in making new compounds, and was, it must be confessed, often in no wise superior to the process of erecting new castles indulged in by a child with a good box of bricks. Nevertheless, it served its purpose and justified its expense, because it gave the chemist confidence in his tools, and showed him what they could and what they could not accomplish. All the same, the subject was intellectually unsatisfying, and was commonly looked upon by physical chemists and others as rather sterile.

But among the many who were drawn by the glamour of the organic laboratory were a number of men who thought as they worked, and built up their new compounds, not out of sheer joy of building something new, but to test their hypotheses. These results were duly published, but without meeting with adequate recognition, because they savoured too much of the physical school for the conventional organic chemist, and they were too deeply involved in organic chemistry for the ordinary general chemist. Thus they have remained more or less as things apart, and have not exercised the influence they should have done on the general development of the subject.

It is with these hypotheses that the present volume deals, and the author is to be congratulated on the way in which he has hunted through the scattered literature to bring the new work into one volume. Here it is easily accessible to the student, and the full Index and copious references to the original memoirs will facilitate the further investigations that the subject is bound to call forth. For it obviously cannot be left in its present state. The old hypotheses are being steadily undermined, and new hypotheses are destructively criticized as soon as their authors venture to launch them on the troubled waters of modern science.

Take, for example, the quadrivalency of carbon. For years it has been an accepted dogma that an atom of carbon could combine only with four other univalent elements, or an equivalent number of polyvalent elements. The carbon atom was represented as having four bonds or valencies, all of which always came into play. No one would have dreamt of setting up a constitutional formula for an organic compound without seeing that every one of the four bonds of every carbon atom was duly "satisfied." Yet on the third page of the book the author describes work showing that the carbon atom may in at least one compound be tervalent, and in several others bivalent. If this really turns out to be the case, one almost shudders to think of the prodigious overhauling of formulae that will become necessary. A further blow to the hypothesis of fixed valencies was dealt by Thiele, whose work on partial valencies and conjugated double bonds is dealt with at some length. Thiele supposes that the valency of unsaturated atoms is not wholly utilized, as used to be supposed, by the mutual satisfaction of double or treble bonds, but, on the contrary, some force of affinity remains as a residual or partial valency. Where two pairs of double linkages adjoin one another, the partial valencies neutralize each other, so that a new state supervenes, which he calls a conjugated double bond. On this hypothesis he is able to explain many of the abnormalities observed among the unsaturated compounds. The application of this and similar hypotheses to the case of benzene is also discussed.

The second section of the book treats of chain and ring formation, and makes easier reading, because it deals with the more conventional building-up processes which have hitherto been looked upon as the proper business of the organic chemist. But after a short space we are back again to the theoretical considerations, and the discussion turns first on the dynamics of organic reactions, and finally on the relation between chemical constitution and physical properties. Into the details of the discussions there is no need for us to go; many of the hypotheses are, as the author indicates, obviously incomplete, and not a few are mutually destructive. The important point is that they have been framed at all, and we close the book with a feeling of thanks to the author for having brought them together in a judicial and wholly unbiased manner, so that the student can get hold of them and develop them. Fifty years ago organic chemists took the lead in the development of chemical theory; then the mantle fell from them, and was taken up by the general and physical chemists. The attitude of the more brilliant of the younger organic chemists shows that they mean to recover the lead thus lost, and all true lovers of science will wish them well in their enterprise.

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

[Insertion in these columns does not preclude longer review.]

Blake (J. C.), GENERAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORY MANUAL, 8/ net. Macmillan

This manual is intended to be used in conjunction with the 'General Chemistry' by the same author. The well-selected exercises in elementary chemistry are printed on the left-hand pages, the right-hand pages being left blank for receiving the student's notes and results. The author has adopted the spelling "sulfur" for this element and derivatives, though on p. 24 we find both "sulphur" and "sulfur" in the same line.

Brucker (E.), BOTANY, "Thresholds of Science," 2/ net. Constable

Perhaps the day of the ordinary science textbook, bristling with technical terms, is passing, and such books as those in the "Thresholds of Science Series" are rather timid forerunners of the improved science manuals of the future. The greater part of the volume on 'Botany' consists of descriptions of common plants; each plant is illustrated, and there are useful practical hints on preserving and classifying. The experiments quoted are simple and to the point, and the book forms a good introduction to the subject for those who would teach themselves its elements.

Campbell (William Wallace), STELLAR MOTIONS, with Special Reference to Motions determined by Means of the Spectrograph, 17/ net.

New Haven, Yale University Press; London, Oxford University Press

Contains the substance of the Silliman Lectures in Yale University for the academic year 1909-10. The lectures relate to the field of discovery opened up during the past twenty years by the measurement of radial velocities of stars, determined by means of the spectroscopic.

Cassell's Reinforced Concrete: A COMPLETE TREATISE ON THE PRACTICE AND THEORY OF MODERN CONSTRUCTION IN CONCRETE-STEEL, edited by Bernard E. Jones, assisted by Albert Lakeman and by a Staff of Specialist Writers, 15/ net.

The editor and his ten collaborators have produced a useful, though not a great or distinguished book, and the result of their labours may be commended to those who wish for practical and comprehensive guidance in the elements of the subject. The value of the descriptions is enhanced by the 668 illustrations, especially by the photographs of ferro-concrete work in different stages of construction. The variety of work illustrated ranges from railway sleepers to cathedrals. The descriptions of the more complicated structures might have been extended, or, if space did not permit of that, references should have been given to sources of more detailed information. The chapter on 'Architectural Treatment' is inadequate. The usefulness of ferro-concrete has been clearly demonstrated; beauty of appearance is yet to seek. The examples of pure ferro-concrete construction are hideous, and the suggestions for architectural treatment do not appeal to us.

Chandley (Charles), GAS TESTING AND AIR MEASUREMENT, 1/6 Methuen

A summary of the law of the subject and the meaning and methods of gas testing, with additional notes on air measurement. It collects information from a variety of sources concerning tests for firedamp, a subject candidates for certificates under Section 15 of the Coal Mines Act (1911) have to master.

Guillaume (C. E.), MECHANICS, "Thresholds of Science," 2/ net. Constable

Mechanics, usually treated with the solemnity considered due to a branch of mathematics, is dealt with by M. Guillaume in a way that should hold the interest of any reader, however distrustful he may be of his capacity to understand a subject which involves the use of curves and formulae. The range of the work is fairly wide, in view of the fact that it is intended for beginners, and includes the first principles of ballistics. The author's frequent divagations into history, fiction, &c., have the charm of the unexpected, and are always of value and sometimes amusing.

Legros (Dr. C. V.), FABRE, POET OF SCIENCE, 10/6 net. Fisher Unwin

This book is an excellent English translation of 'La Vie de J. H. Fabre,' which was noticed at some length in *The Athenæum* of May 24th last. The present edition will prove a boon to the purely English reader, who should be acquainted with the life and work of the great naturalist.

Willows (R. S.), A TEXT-BOOK OF PHYSICS, 7/6 net. Arnold

Most teachers of physics must feel with Dr. Willows the difficulty of selecting a textbook of an elementary nature suitable for students preparing for the Intermediate Science Examinations of our Universities and similar examinations; for, whereas there are many more advanced treatises, there is a lack of books of this standard which can be considered entirely satisfactory. It is with a view to filling this gap that the author has undertaken a new textbook on Heat, Light, Sound, Magnetism, and Electricity. That the task of selecting the material to be included in such a volume needs considerable discretion and judgment is evident, for in the first year of study the student should be familiarized with the fundamental facts of physics without being confused by an undue amount of unessential details. Dr. Willows is to be congratulated upon having succeeded in making a happy choice both of the theoretical points which he presents to the reader and of the laboratory exercises illustrating them; moreover, the descriptions are in the main clear, and illustrated by admirable diagrams. It is, however, unfortunate that the composition of the text does not always show that care which is so necessary in a work intended for beginners, nor is the book altogether free from errors and misleading statements. Thus, for instance, in the chapter on radiation we are told that "the rate of cooling when the small calorimeter is at 50° and the outer vessel at 45° is the same as if the respective temperatures were 20° and 15°," whereas, as is shown a few pages later, the rate of cooling depends approximately upon the cube of the absolute temperature of the enclosure. Again, in dealing with platinum thermometry, a linear law is assumed for the variation of the resistance of platinum with temperature, although a diagram is given showing the details of the construction of the instrument. Later, the question of the electrical conductivity of gases is dismissed by the sentence "Ohm's law does not hold for gases." Such a brief statement can hardly be of any service, and it would have been well either to amplify it or omit all reference to the subject. The explanation of Römer's method of determining the velocity of light, which almost all students seem to find difficult, is no better than the inadequate treatment to be found in most textbooks.

FINE ARTS

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

[Insertion in these columns does not preclude longer review.]

Murdoch (W. G. Blaikie), THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF SCOTLAND, Souvenir Volume, 1/ Moring

A useful and interesting little handbook containing an historical sketch of the Gallery and a critical description of the principal pictures of each school represented. There are nineteen illustrations.

Pennsylvania University, THE MUSEUM JOURNAL, June, 25 cents. University Museum

Contains an article by Dr. Arno Poebel on 'Important Documents found in the Museum's Collection of Ancient Babylonian Clay Tablets'; short articles on 'The Tablet of Enkhegal,' 'Abraham as the Inventor of an Improved Plow,' and the Lilit Legend; and an account, by Mr. E. P. Wilkins, of the description of Egypt published under the patronage of Napoleon. The Museum copy of this work is a fine example of the rare first edition.

Some Trivial Recollections of an Old Landscape Painter, 10/6 net. Heath & Cranton

The author of these recollections hides his identity beneath a mysterious anonymity, and tells us that he does so because, being only a poor landscape painter, old and unknown, his signature would convey little or nothing to the general public; he wrote the book, he says, at the instigation of a lady to whom he had been spinning yarns in an hotel lounge. He has given us samples of these yarns to the extent of some three hundred and fifty pages, and leaves us with the impression that he has only stopped to take breath. They include thumbnail sketches of men and women he has known, and fragments of their conversation; episodes in the artist's industrious attempts to find paintable "bits" in different parts of the country; reflections on the most diverse topics, from the habits of red deer to the danger of calling a coachman "cochon" in France; and many yarns pure and simple, from the "Peacock's Eggs" to some of quite modern origin.

Several of the yarns are not unamusing, but the adventures which have befallen the artist and his friends are not very thrilling. The author seems to us to attach undue importance to such events as the missing of a train or an uncomfortable night's lodging; of the main events in his life he tells us little, of his work next to nothing. We picture him as a genial old gentleman fond of angling and a gossip over the flowing bowl. He hints at a Royal patron and an unrequited love. We gather that, although not famous, he has managed to sell all along the line. He disapproves of Impressionism and Post-Impressionism, but otherwise tells us nothing of his Art creed. What he has achieved he has evidently achieved easily; we hear nothing of "the weariness, the fever, and the fret" which beset those who find Art difficult.

When he talks of his Bohemian friends we feel that he has failed to grasp the essentials of their outlook; he notes only their superficial characteristics. He is so careful to take up a detached attitude that we suspect him of being secretly ashamed of them. This is unfortunate, as he has evidently met some real personalities.

Musical Gossip.

A NEW Pianoforte Concerto in F minor by M. Alexandre Glazounov was heard, for the first time in London, at the Promenade Concert at Queen's Hall on Thursday evening in last week. The published work bears the date 1912. At the present time we have composers like Schönberg and Stravinsky who puzzle even those who know that Art cannot remain stationary. New paths must therefore be opened, but it seems doubtful at present whether these composers have lost their way, or have advanced too far to be understood by the present generation. Glazounov's music, however, is easy to follow. It is sound and pleasant, though it is the outcome of skill rather than inspiration. If one could feel the latter, form and phraseology would not prove stumbling-blocks. The pianoforte part was interpreted by Mr. Alfred Quaife in a sound, musicianlike manner, though not with sufficient brilliancy in the first movement, in which there are touches of virtuosity. The programme included Mr. Julius Harrison's Variations "Down among the dead men," given under his direction. They are excellent and effectively scored, but, unfortunately, the Finale is rather long.

The concert on Tuesday opened with Weber's 'Oberon' Overture and Humperdinck's Introduction to the second act of 'Königskinder,' two delightful specimens of their respective composers, and they were rendered, the one with verve, the other with charm, under the direction of Sir Henry J. Wood. Dr. R. Vaughan Williams's Suite for Orchestra, forming part of the incidental music composed by him for the production of Aristophanes's comedy 'The Wasps' at Cambridge in 1909, was heard here for the first time. Music of this kind loses in effect when given apart from the stage, and, indeed, in places creates a wrong impression. In the March, for instance, the persistent repetition of a short theme becomes somewhat monotonous, whereas with the movements on the stage it might appear quite appropriate. As concert pieces the bright Overture and the lively Finale are the best. The clever scoring is a prominent feature of the Suite.

EUGEN D'ALBERT, the well-known pianist, has composed much for the stage. In 1893 'Der Rubin' was produced at Karlsruhe; 'Ghismonda' at Dresden in 1895; 'Gernot' at Mannheim in 1897; 'Die Abreise' at Frankfurt in 1898; 'Kaim' and 'Der Improvisator' at Berlin in 1900; 'Tiefand' at Prague in 1903; 'Flauto Solo' also at Prague in 1905; 'Tragaldabas' at Hamburg in 1907, and 'Izeyl' at the same place in 1909; and 'Die Verschenkte Frau' and 'Liebesketten' at Vienna in 1912. A new opera is to be given at Cologne during the coming winter. 'Tiefand' was produced by Mr. Thomas Beecham at Covent Garden, October 5th, 1910. The Overture to 'Der Improvisator' will be performed for the first time in London at the Promenade Concert on the 11th inst.

'FALSTAFF' is the title of Sir Edward Elgar's "Symphonic Study for Orchestra, in C minor, with two Interludes in A minor," which is to be produced at the Leeds Festival next month. Some modern composers, as, for instance, Strauss, are disposed to keep to themselves the poetic bases of their works. A shrewd guess may be made as to the meaning of certain sections in his Symphonic Poems, which, like the one in question, has a familiar name as title, such as 'Don Juan' or 'Don Quixote'; there are,

however, others for the meaning of which listeners have to trust to their imagination, or to explanations by various writers, connected possibly, though not officially, with something the composer has said.

Sir Edward takes us into his confidence in an illuminating article he contributes to the September number of *The Musical Times*. It is his first really important contribution to programme music, and his explanations will be thankfully received. Indeed, without them we might have gone wrong concerning the general title: it refers not to the Falstaff of 'The Merry Wives of Windsor,' but to the Falstaff of the historical plays, '1 and 2 Henry IV.' and 'Henry V.' He also quotes the summing-up of this complex character given by Maurice Morgann in his 'Essay on the Dramatic Character of Sir John Falstaff,' published in 1777, and that alone will give a clue to some of the moods of the music. He then notes the four principal divisions into which the work naturally falls, and gives in a few words what may perhaps be termed the scenes of action. These divisions are not shown in the score, but occasional lines from the plays are placed under some of the themes. To the two Interludes reference is also made.

After the Leeds Festival the work will be given in London, and Sir Edward's description of it will be found helpful and interesting.

WEBER'S 'Euryanthe' contains some of his finest music, but the libretto is by no means clear. Weber himself was well aware of this, and thought of a "Pantomimic Prologue" during the Largo of the Overture. Rellstab later suggested that this pictorial episode should be shown in the last act, just before the close. Helmina von Chezy and the stage manager of the Vienna Hoftheater raised objections, and the idea was abandoned. The book has always militated against the success of the opera. A new text has been provided by Herr Hans Joachim Moser, and the work will be given at the Berlin Opera, under the title 'The Seven Crows,' during the coming season.

THE season at La Monnaie, Brussels, was announced to begin last Thursday with Meyerbeer's 'Les Huguenots,' 'Parsifal' is to be given in January, followed by 'Salome' and 'Elektra' under the direction of Strauss.

Le Ménestrel of last Saturday states that the Académie des Beaux-Arts has requested M. Widor to represent it at the inauguration of the Gounod monument at Saint-Rémy de Provence, which will commemorate the fact that it was there Gounod composed his opera 'Mireille' in 1863. Thirty years later he wrote: "Ah! 'Mireille,' quel radieux souvenir de mon existence!" and like Beethoven he sought inspiration in the open air, for he adds: "Levé avant l'aube, je me promenais dans les sentiers ombreux, écoutant les chansons des oiseaux du bon Dieu." During the festival, which takes place to-day and to-morrow, a tablet will be affixed to the house in which he stayed.

THE GENERAL BOARD OF STUDIES of the University of Cambridge will, during the ensuing Michaelmas term, appoint a lecturer on Form and Analysis in Music, to hold office until September 30th, 1918. The stipend is 100*l*. Applications, with testimonials, should be sent to the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. S. A. Donaldson, Magdalene College Lodge, on or before October 11th.

DRAMA

The Quintessence of Ibsenism: Now Completed to the Death of Ibsen. By Bernard Shaw. (Constable & Co.)

THE first edition of 'The Quintessence of Ibsenism' appeared in 1891—that is, before Ibsen's last four plays had been written. These are each the subject of a chapter, and the technical novelty of the plays and the need for an Ibsen theatre occupy further chapters. Beyond these, no alterations or additions have been made.

Let it be said at once that there is no perceptible difference of style or vigour between the old and the new sections; but Mr. Shaw can no longer make the same frontal attack. Few will be found to-day seriously to maintain the anti-Ibsenite tenets of the majority of the dramatic critics of the early nineties; such a collection of offensive epithets as those evoked by 'Ghosts,' and preserved by Mr. William Archer, will hardly be repeated. So that, twenty-two years ago, Mr. Shaw had the satisfaction of tilting at live men whose lances were as ready, if not so sharp, as his own. To-day, he admits almost with pathos, Ibsen is a classic; critics take him for granted, and are consequently apathetic; and to tilt at these is as exciting as assaulting a haystack. Moreover, the defence of 'A Doll's House,' fresh from the mint, is not the same thing as the exposition nowadays of 'John Gabriel Borkman,' which surely never awoke in any man sensations half as important in spiritual consequence as the first-named play. Not a few of Ibsen's strongest admirers shook their heads sadly over 'When We Dead Awaken,' and whispered "senile decay" to one another. Hence, too, the treatment given to the plays in the first edition was inadequate to explain Ibsen's later dramas. Mr. Shaw adopts a tone which (for him) is almost apologetic. He has to devote more space to elucidation in order to justify his comments. He will submit to no suggestion that Ibsen's powers declined towards the end, and 'When We Dead Awaken' is triumphantly proclaimed the equal of his greatest and best.

It is in the chapter headed 'The Technical Novelty of Ibsen's Plays' that Mr. Shaw shows to what extent he will permit himself to make use of Ibsen in self-justification. For the whole technical novelty, we are told, is the discussion. Because Nora, in 'A Doll's House,' says, "We must sit down and discuss all this that has been happening between us," it is alleged that the play "conquered Europe and founded a new school of dramatic art." Yet all the discussion, Mr. Shaw acknowledges in the very next sentence, takes place during the last ten minutes of the play! We venture to think that the novelty of 'A Doll's House' is not discussion, but action—particularly the action of the last minute. The de-

PERFORMANCES NEXT WEEK.

MON.—SAT. Promenade Concerts, S. Queen's Hall.

parture of Nora is still a thing people talk about. Not from the discussion of that play can the interminable conversation, devoid of all action, in 'Getting Married' be justified.

In 'Needed: an Ibsen Theatre' Mr. Shaw claims that Ibsen "has proved the right of the drama to Scriptural rank, and his own right to canonical rank as one of the major prophets of the modern Bible," and should be acted as doctrine accordingly, with performances "in the order of academic courses, designed so as to take audiences over the whole ground as Ibsen and his successors took them." The modest suggestion of the doctrinal value of the "successors'" works is characteristic. But we doubt if, after all, Mr. Shaw is one of the successors.

PRODUCTIONS OF THE WEEK.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—*Androcles and the Lion*. By Bernard Shaw.—*The Harlequinade*. By Dion Clayton Calthrop and Granville Barker.

IF Mr. Shaw's play 'Androcles and the Lion' is not a success, it will not fail because of the offence it gives—it will fail in spite of such offence. Much of the play is written in sheer derision of the general public, and, whether we admit or not that the derision is deserved, Mr. Shaw had no right, in our opinion, thus to cheapen himself and his writings.

The play deals with the psychology of early Christian martyrs, comparing it with the spirit that animates Suffragettes to-day. Incisive thrusts are dealt at modern laws and law-makers. The point of view of the Captain of the Guards in the matter of persecution still obtains to-day in obtuse minds, as it no doubt did in ancient Rome:—

"In throwing you to the lions the Divine Emperor is merely upholding the interests of religion. Of course, if you were to throw him to the lions that might be called persecution."

Mr. Shaw shows us a group of Christians condemned to the arena. They are simple, unlettered people—mostly slaves. They do not understand the new doctrine, they merely believe it. From this group there stands out in high relief the figure of the patrician lady, Lavinia; while the others are slaves to the letter of the new Faith, she alone is capable of grasping the spirit. She loves the handsome captain who has brought her and her fellow-prisoners to Rome; her whole nature cries out for love and for life; but her subconscious being forbids her to betray her faith, and renders it as "physically impossible" to yield to her lover as to sacrifice to Diana. Face to face with the reality of death, she is unable to put into words understandable by others an explanation of this compelling force. She says quite simply: "I believe I am doing it for God." When asked to explain God, she replies that to be able to do so would prove her own equality with the Deity. That is one of the too few

thoughts that matter which the play contains.

As a foil to this character of supreme dignity and humanity Mr. Shaw gives us lower types: Ferrovius, the man who goes in fear of his own physical courage and physical strength; Spintho, the thief and coward, trusting to purchase heaven by the glamour of martyrdom; and Androcles, the martyr by temperament. For this weak creature self-sacrifice is the only form of activity possible. He turns the other cheek to his persecutors as he turned it to his wife, not from a chastened spirit, but from a feeble one; self-abasement is the first need of his nature. It has been suggested to us that the facial presentment of Androcles has been purposely modelled on the accepted type of Christ. If so, we can only wonder why. Certain it is that the mawkishness with which the character is informed is far removed from the virility of Christ as presented in the Gospels.

Such are Mr. Shaw's martyrs. Around them he has endeavoured to write a witty play; in fact, he attempts to endue religion with the saving grace of humour. His methods are such as he has often employed before. The individual characters are all well sketched, the dialogue is handled with the author's well-known skill. The attitude of the Romans to the Christians is convincingly and humorously suggested. As in 'Cæsar and Cleopatra,' his patricians talk twentieth-century English, and his plebeians Cockney. Lest the play should still not prove diverting enough, he has developed Androcles into a "funny man" of the traditional English type, who supplies comic relief with a pantomime lion in the Prologue and Epilogue.

It is useless for Mr. Shaw, having done all this, to complain of an audience, anxious to show that it was too "cultured" to be shocked, which laughed sometimes in the wrong places, as well as in the right. By thus pandering to the public he may obtain a wider hearing. Not thus will he become understood. If he wishes to retain his position as an educator, he must not descend to mere fooling.

The thought recurs that Mr. Clayton Calthrop and Mr. Granville Barker's 'Harlequinade' is to some extent a 'Peter Pan' for grown-ups. The subject of the descent of immortals to earth in order to busy themselves with mortal affairs suggests the continuance of a vogue of the last dramatic season. Even with the aid of Miss Nesbitt in her delightful part of interpreter, the divagations of the Gods are difficult to follow. It is plausibly suggested that a childlike mind will help more to the understanding than the pseudo-learning which merely enmeshes the spirit in its toils. There is much that is beautiful for sight and hearing; there is something of earnestness in the clowning which humanizes a bookworm and makes a clothes-prop into a man; and there is much of laughter in the presentment of the theatrical performance of the future.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—*Joseph and his Brethren*. By Louis Parker.

SIR HERBERT TREE has undoubtedly laid the public under a debt of gratitude for the wealth of thought and talent lavished on his production of 'Joseph and his Brethren.' That the actor-manager achieves dignity himself in the part of Jacob is a matter for congratulation, and we recall no better instance of a company's general ensemble and freedom from the idea of effacement in the interests of one particular character.

We find ourselves, however, wishing for some moderation in the passionate transports of one or two characters. It seems useless to hope that the attention of the producers could be concentrated on conveying the grand simplicity of the Bible story rather than on suiting the public taste by opulent effects. For ourselves, we retain a decided preference for the story and language of the Bible over Mr. Parker's version for the stage. Even so, criticism is disarmed when what really remains in the mind after seeing the production is the extraordinary beauty of Mr. Harker's scenic effects, the dignity of Mr. George Relph's Joseph, and the power of Miss Maxine Elliott's Zuleika.

COURT THEATRE.—*Nan*. By John Masefield.—*A Conversation at the Styx*. By James Dale.

THE subtle knowledge of human nature, its emotions, its susceptibilities, its passions, and its charms, which forms the keynote of Mr. Masefield's 'Nan,' was well brought out in the revival, under the management of Messrs. Algernon Greig and Milton Rosmer, at the Court Theatre last Saturday.

The worthlessness of the lover and the relentlessness of his efforts to visit upon Nan the social consequences of her ill-fated origin are well portrayed by Mr. Milton Rosmer. Mr. Charles Grove in the character of William Paigetter and Mrs. A. B. Tapping as his wife also deserve special mention. Mr. J. H. Roberts made a picturesque figure of Gaffer, the old fiddler, and Mrs. Estelle Winwood as Jenny Paigetter displayed a real West-Country accent.

The play was preceded by 'A Conversation at the Styx,' a bright satire by Mr. James Dale. From beginning to end the little piece scintillates with wit, and one follows with interest the epigrams exchanged by Charon, a Scoundrel, a Saint, and a Respectable Person. This humorous little curtain-raiser was excellently acted by Messrs. Charles Groves, Frank Macrae, and J. H. Roberts. Mr. Rosmer as Charon gave another example of his versatility.

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